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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

JAPANESE TRADE, INDUSTRY MINISTER VISITS SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

OW071025 Tokyo KYODO in English 0804 GMT 7 Sep 80

[Article by Ichiro Nakagawa]

[Text] Manila Sept 7 KYODO--Japanese Trade Minister Rokusuke Tanaka Monday starts an official tour of four Southeast Asian countries by calling on Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos at his presidential mansion for an hour-long talk.

Japanese sources say Marcos will ask Tanaka, minister of international trade and industry, to extend maximum aid for his country's industrial development projects, including development of paper and pulp industry and alternative energy sources.

Tanaka arrived from Tokyo Sunday on the first leg of his tour which will also take him to Malaysia, Burma and Thailand.

The tour, to end on September 16, is aimed at further promoting cooperative relations in energy, trade and industry with these countries, Tanaka said in a statement issued last Thursday.

In August last year, Marcos announced a new economic policy the nation of 48 million people should pursue in the 1980s.

The dollar 6 billion projects also include development of steel, copper and aluminum industries.

Japan in June pledged to extend yen 36 billion credits to the Philippines to help promote the projects.

Of the amount, yen 18.8 billion will be spent on building a geothermal power plant in Leyte.

The Philippines also plans to establish another power plant in Luzon and Marcos will seek further financial and technological assistance from Japan, the Japanese sources say.

The Philippines now has five such plants with a combined capacity of 280,000 kilowatts, the third largest after the United States and Italy.

The Philippines, heavily dependent on imported oil for energy needs, wants to expand the geothermal power capacity to 1.62 million kilowatts by 1987, the sources say.

Tanaka also met Trade Minister Luis Villafuerte, Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco and Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin Monday.

CSO: 4220

INDIAN-AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATION ON IRON ORE PRICES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Jul 80 p 11

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 30.—India and Australia today agreed to consult each other on the sale price of iron ore for which, they felt, a suitable machinery should be evolved to ensure a fair return. Australia indicated that it would like to consult other countries in this matter.

Australia and India are among the world's largest iron ore exporters, all of which have been trying for years to set up a joint organization on the model of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The efforts have not so far been successful.

Mr J. D. Anthony, Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Resources, and Mr Pranab Mukherji, Minister for Commerce and Steel and Mines, met here today to discuss the matter.

The Commerce Minister told Mr Anthony that while 10 million people were employed in the country's handloom industry the

total textile exports from India to Australia formed only two per cent of its total textile imports from the world market. He emphasized that Australia should remove all restrictions on handlooms and handicrafts imports from this country.

Mr Mukherji and Mr Anthony said there could be cooperation in joint ventures, consultancy, equipment supply, construction projects and design engineering. It was agreed that organizations which had successfully tendered for contracts abroad or were competent to contract should meet each other and identify areas in which such cooperation would be feasible.

The Australian Deputy Prime Minister stated that skilled manpower could be one such area and that he would try to persuade representatives of business and industry in his country to visit India to discuss matters concerning such cooperation both in private and public sectors.

CSO: 4220

PRESIDENT RAHMAN SENDS EVE OF PLAN MESSAGE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Jul 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has expressed his optimism that the Second Five-Year Plan being launched from today would bring prosperity for the people, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of launching the plan, the President said that people's hopes and aspirations had found full expression in this pragmatic and ambitious plan which has a total outlay of Taka 25,595 crore.

The plan, he said, was formulated with the aim at developing national economy in its entirety. Out of the total outlay, Taka 20,125 crore is in the public sector and Taka 5,470 crore in the private sector.

The President said the growth of gross national product per annum envisaged in the plan is 7.2 percent. The per capita increase of GNP would be 4.9 per cent per annum.

Terming today, July 1, as a historic day in the national life, President Zia said it was the people whose role would be prime and important for sound and successful implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Total development expenditure of the plan is estimated to be Taka 25,595 crore of which Taka 20,125 crore would be in the public sector and Taka 5,470 crore in the private sector.

He expressed the belief that to get this great work done it was essential to inspire and organise the people politically. He said, there was no doubt that the target of the plan would be achieved through hard work, sincerity, dedication, unity and cooperation.

GNP

Keeping in view the overall development of the economy the annual growth rate of gross national product was estimated at 7.2 per cent and the per capita increase of gross national product was estimated at 4.9 per cent per annum.

President Zia said under this great programme all will have to work as one nation. He said if we want to stand as a nation we will have to engage ourselves in framing the destiny of the nation with a struggling attitude.

It was estimated that more than 50 per cent of the development expenditures during the plan period would be for rural development and the President termed the next five years as a period of tough test. He said, this is the test for our survival and to maintain existence as a self-respecting nation in the world by safeguarding our independence and sovereignty.

He said with confidence that we will have to succeed in it as "there was no other alternative for success."

Out of total development expenditures of the plan, Taka 11,715 crore would be generated from internal resources and Taka 13,880 crore would come from in the form of foreign aid. At the terminal year of the plan generation of internal resources would be increased from 15 per cent to 29 per cent.

In the public sector 32.32 per cent of total resources would be spent in agriculture and allied activities 16.27 per cent in industry 14.47 per cent in power, natural resources and scientific and technological researches and 13.09 per cent in communications.

Annual growth rate in the agricultural sector was estimated at 6.3 per cent and in industry at 8.6 per cent. Increase of rice and wheat production at the terminal year was estimated as 39 per cent and 206 per cent respectively. Besides the plan envisages to undertake an additional programme from 1982 to double food production in a short possible time which will require an additional investment of Taka 1898 crore.

The objectives of the Second Five-Year Plan is to improve standard of living of the people, increase of employment opportunities, doubling the food production within a shortest possible time; achieving self-reliance, eradication of illiteracy population control proper distribution of resources and development of human resources by ensuring sufficient supply of primary needs.

CSO: 4220

SUMMARY OF PRIME MINISTER'S 26 JUNE SPEECH

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jun 80 pp 3, 11

[Text] Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday that the Parliament was a fully sovereign body with complete authority on financial and legislative matters. He said in financial and legislative affairs the Jatiya Sangsad was more sovereign than the US congress and French parliament.

The Prime Minister was speaking on the last day of the general discussion on the Annual Budget of 1980-81 at the Jatiya Sangsad. Speaker Mirza Golam Hafiz was in the chair.

Following is the summary of the speech of Shah Azizur Rahman, Prime Minister and Leader of the House at Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday:

At the outset, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman complimented the Members of the Opposition as well as the Government Members for their participation in the Budget discussion.

The speeches of the some of the Members of the Opposition he said, are marked by objectivity, but most members indulged in purposeless discussion. [as published]

The speech of the Leader of the Opposition, he said, reflected deepening mistrust and brooding anger. It was all froth and fury and bafflingly illogical. I don't blame the opposition because there is chronic lack of knowledge, he said.

The Awami League Parliamentary Party, I understand, have to feed their supporters on mendacious and self-contradictory statements to bolster the sagging morale of their party-men.

Summing up the opposition criticism, he quoted Shakespeare's "There are more things in Heaven and earth, Horatio than are dreamt of in your philosophy, it is full of sound and fury signifying nothing." [as published]

He said, difference in the essence of democracy and we appreciate the Opposition point of view wherever tenable.

Refuting the charge of the Leader of the Opposition that the Parliament is not sovereign and that there is one-man rule in the country, he asserted that there is one [words illegible] the Parliament is sovereign and is vested with full legislative and financial powers.

"Parliamentary Sovereignty," which is more a textbook concept than a reality, actually means control of Parliament over its own normal sphere. The main functions of a legislature are legislation and passing of budget. Other functions vary according to the system of Government. But even in the field of legislation and budgetmaking, the powers of a legislature are nowhere absolutely unrestricted. In this connection I would like to refer to the systems of Government obtaining in the USA, the UK and France, undisputedly the three most advanced democracies in the world. It will appear from a study of the constitutions of these three states that the concept of "Parliamentary Sovereignty" has not the same meaning in all of them.

In the USA, the Congress, which is the American Legislature has full control over public finance. Without its approval no budget can be passed. The control is so effective that rarely the Government demands in full are accepted by the Congress. In the field of legislation, the powers of the Congress is, however, to some extent limited. Since USA is a federal state, the constitution has assigned some specific subjects to the federation and the Congress is entitled to make laws only on those subjects. Any transgression beyond this limit is liable to be declared by the Supreme Court as ultra vires of the constitution. [as published] Again the bill passed by the Congress is subject to Presidential veto which may be overridden by two-thirds of the total membership of both the Houses.

In the U.K. which has a Parliamentary form of Government and an unwritten constitution, Parliament has somewhat unlimited control over legislation and public finance. There is no defined spheres of legislation and hence Parliament may make any law on any subject it likes. It may even amend a Constitutional law by following the ordinary legislative procedure.

In France, the present constitution of the Fifth Republic has introduced a system of Government which is semi-Parliamentary. Under this constitution, Parliament sits for a maximum of five and a half months in the year. It has power of legislative within a circumscribed field. [as published] The constitution has prescribed a limit to legislative capacity of Parliament. Parliament has been given the right to make law on certain enumerated subjects (art. 34). Everything else belong to the executive field (art. 37). [as published] The Government is permitted

by the constitution to declare inadmissible a bill or an amendment on the ground that the subject is not within the legislative domain of Parliament or not a proper one for legislation. If the President of the House disagrees, the matter is submitted to the Constitutional Council whose decision shall be final. The President of the Republic can also refer a bill to the constitutional Council for a ruling as to its conformity with the constitution (arts. 41 and 51). There is, however, no constitutional provision enabling Parliament to object to a Government decree on any ground whatsoever. In the U.K., there is no such limit upon Parliamentary legislative powers.

In the USA, which has a Presidential form of Government [as published], the President is elected by electoral college which is elected by the votes of the people for a fixed term of four years. [as published] During his tenure, he may be removed from office only by impeachment. Congress cannot otherwise force him to quit, even if it rejects all his legislative proposals and drastically modifies his budget proposals. The President is also free to select any person as his Minister, though the appointment requires a Senatorial approval. But once appointed, Minister remains responsible and accountable to the President alone. [as published] He is not responsible to Congress which cannot force him to resign by any vote of censure or no-confidence. Further,, the Ministers have no right to sit in any House or to take part in its deliberations. He does not answer any question on the floor of any House. Thus, the Congress has no direct control over the executive. But for this no body would say that the Congress is not sovereign or a mere rubber stamp.

In the U.K. which has a Cabinet form of Government, the Prime Minister and the Members of his Cabinet are selected from amongst the members of the majority party in Parliament and the responsible are to the Parliament. [as published] The Parliament may, by its majority, force the Cabinet out of office, in which case the Prime Minister may go to the people by advising the Crown to dissolve the Parliament.

In France, which has a mixed type of Government, the President who is the head of the State and to a certain extent head of the Government is elected for a fixed term of seven years by a direct popular vote. The President is politically irresponsible for the acts done by him. [as published] He can not be impeached, but may be tried before the High Court of Justice for high treason. During his tenure, he cannot be removed from office. The President is free to appoint any person as Prime Minister or Minister. The Prime Minister or a Minister cannot be member of Parliament, but they can sit in any House and participate in its deliberations without any right to vote. The President may, after consultation with the Premier and the President of the Assembly, dissolve the National Assembly i.e. the Lower House of Parliament. The President and not the Premier presides over the Council of Ministers.

It is thus clear that Parliamentary sovereignty has different meaning and constitution in different systems of Government. But for this difference, no system of Government may be called undemocratic. Considered in this light, our Parliament can not be called less sovereign and our system can not be deemed less democratic. Our Parliament has full control over legislation. President has no veto power. The U.S. Congress can override the Presidential veto by two thirds of the total membership of both Houses, but our Parliament may force the President to assent to a Bill repassed by an absolute majority of the House. The U.S. Congress can not amend the Constitution even by the support of its full strength, but our Parliament can amend, with few exceptions, all the provisions of the constitution by two-thirds of its total membership. In financial matter also our Parliament has absolute control. Budget can not be passed without its approval. The President cannot override the decision of Parliament in budgetary matters. He cannot even send back a finance bill for reconsideration. In this respect, its power is equal to the power of any other Parliament. Our Parliament can thus effectively exercise its control over the Executive through its legislative and financial power. Through questions it may also keep the Executive under its surveillance. Further it may force the President out of office by impeachment, a power which the U.S. Congress enjoys, but the French Parliament lacks. Unlike the U.S. and French Ministers, our Ministers may be members of Parliament and can take part in its deliberations. Like the British Prime Minister our Prime Minister must be a person having the confidence of Parliament. In Japan, about half of the Cabinet Ministers may be outsiders, but in our system only one fifth may be outsiders.

Now about the amendment of the Constitution--

Fundamental rights were ineffective by the 4th amendment of the Constitution. They virtually ceased to be justiciable. [as published] The Supreme Court was denied the right to guarantee fundamental rights. There was to be a separate Tribunal or constitutional Court to enforce the fundamental rights, but no law constituting such Tribunal or Court was made.

Judges of the Supreme Court had no security of their tenure. They could be removed from office by an order of the President. During the Martial Law the position was changed. The Supreme Court as a guardian of the Fundamental Rights was restored and the position of the Judges was made secure.

Freedom of association was demolished and a single party system was introduced by the Fourth Amendment. The President could appoint the Prime Minister and all the Members of the Council of Ministers from outside the Parliament under the new dispensation.

Credit goes to the Martial Law Regime for the very imaginative and far-sighted amendments made in the constitution during the Martial Law period.

Article 44 relating to the enforcement of Fundamental rights was restored to its original position. Supreme Court was given back its power to act as the guardian of the Fundamental Rights. Security of tenure of Supreme Court Judges was guaranteed. Their removal was made subject to the recommendations of the Supreme Judicial Council, a body consisting of the Senior-most members of their own fraternity. The one-party system or BAK-SAL was eliminated from the constitution. [as published] Thus all the mischiefs committed by the Fourth Amendment were removed and the Constitution was purified. All this was done by Martial Law Proclamations. The people acclaimed the amendments and approved all the measures taken by the Martial Law Authority. This was correctly reflected in the referendum and the Presidential and Parliamentary elections. As the representative Supreme law-making body of the people, it was the duty of the newly elected Parliament to act in accordance with the wish and sentiment of the people. It was in discharge of this duty that Parliament passed the Constitution Fifth Amendment Bill. This Amendment was a necessity. It was essential in the interest of the State. It was required to maintain continuity in our legal system. During the Martial Law, the Constitution remained in operation subject to the Martial Law Proclamations. Martial Law Regulations and Martial Law Orders. The Constitution was never abrogated. Many laws in the form of Ordinance, Orders, rules and regulations were made during that period. These laws were made for the smooth and efficient administration of the country and for the good of the people at large. The various legislative and executive measures taken during the Martial Law period could not be thrown into the wind and allowed to be nullified creating a crisis and vacuum in our legal and political system. Obviously, the people's representatives assembled in this Parliament had to take a nature decision on these measures and consequently the Constitution Fifth Amendment Act was made. This Amendment reflects the will of the people and cannot be called arbitrary, illogical, undemocratic or anti-people.

Some of our friends in this House who were in the mental agony during the Martial Law period, may want us to believe that that period was not a part of our national history and existence. But however much they may wish the effacement of that period, it is impossible to deny the reality. There was never any break in the continuity of our national life. It is for this reason even the highest Court of our country, I mean the Supreme Court, found the Martial Law to be an effective law. The superior position of Martial Law Proclamation was accepted by the Supreme Court. In Halima Khatun's case and Haji Joynal Abedin's case the position of Martial Law Proclamations vis-a-vis the Constitution was elaborately discussed and analysed. The court came to the conclusion that "the moment the country was put under Martial Law the Constitutional position along with other Civil laws of the Country lost its superior position. It was observed in Haji Joynal's case that "the Constitution, though not abrogated, was reduced to a position subordinate to the Proclamation." In Dosso's case the Pakistan Supreme Court observed, with reference to the Martial Law Proclaimed in 1958, that Martial Law was a successful revolution and there fore, the proper law creating agency in the country.

What I want to submit is that we cannot ignore the Martial Law period. The laws made and actions taken thereunder during that period were quite good and valid. The Fifth Amendment simply endorsed this legal position and reality. [sentence illegible]

Speaking on the Budget he said, it is a development-oriented Budget to promote economic growth with social justice. It reflects fiscal prudence and the artistic intellectual integrity of the Finance Minister. The Budget is directed towards promotion of an Agricultural revolution, development of Cottage and rural Industries so as to progressively remove the disparity in the standard of living between the Urban and Rural areas. [as published]

In other words, the Budget lays emphasis on production, employment and equitable distribution of wealth. [as published] Human resources development will receive priority. This encourages private investment through monetary and fiscal incentives. The nineteen Points, which is the Charter of our National goals, lay special emphasis on self-reliance. The financing pattern of ADP reflects a conscious adherence to this principle. The five year plan bears the authentic stamp of these 19 points.

The proposed Tax relief and exemption for a number of essential items will provide relief to the poor. The proposed new Taxes are estimated to yield Tk. 100.41 Crore from items mainly used by the affluent section.

60 percent increase in duty on Woolen cloth, 25 percent in tariff values of Cotton fabric, enhanced duty on car, radio, T.V., cosmetics, Air-conditioners will only affect the rich.

The tax exemption to all enterprises in fish, poultry, duck and dairy farming and horticulture for ten years is a progressive step. Agricultural inputs, old garments, kerosene, Ayurvedic, and Unani medicines have been exempted from tax which will benefit the poor. [as published]

Planning

The plan has been prepared taking into account the political social and economic realities obtaining in the country. The objectives of the plan include attainment of higher degree of self-reliance, a greater degree of egalitarian distribution of income and arrest of population boom. Production of foodgrains is sought to be raised to 20 million tons by the end of the plan period. Meanwhile, irrigation facilities will be increased from 3.6 million acres to 7.2 million acres.

The plan seeks to provide necessary support to the rural sector with emphasis on agri-supported Industries. There is a definite priority for labour intensive small Industries in the rural areas.

The development of human resources is emphasised as a necessary preliminary to the generation of employment. Human resources development including literacy expansion research and extension will have a priority in the Second Five Year Plan. Tk. 2425 crore will be spent--78 percent of public sector plan outlay for this purpose. The plan size fixed at a level of Tk. 25595 crore--Tk. 20,125 crore for public sector and Tk. 5,470 crore for private sector, will reduce dependence on aid by mobilising domestic resources and increasing export earnings. Substantial provision has been made in the plan for rural transport, rural electrification, primary education and population control.

In the five year plan, fifty three (53%) percent of total public sector outlay may be considered to have been earmarked for rural development, considering the indirect effects of the industries that supply consumption items or offer employments, the benefits to rural people will be still higher.

In the public sector 30 percent expenditure will be spent in Rajshahi, Khulna Divisions. Northern region is a priority development area--oil prices are subsidised in that area. The setting up of East-West Connector will bring about meaningful change in Northern areas. Tk. 100 crore is earmarked for the Rooppur power plant. The project cost of Joypurhat Limestone and Cement project is Tk. 344 crore. Its production capacity will be limestone 17 lakh tons, clinker 6.6 lakh tons and cement 3.3 lakh tons annually. The project cost of Rani-Pukur Hard Rock project in Rangpur is Tk. 48.86 crore with production capacity of 17 lakh tons per year.

The project cost of Jamalganj Coal Mining (Bogra-Rajshahi) is Tk. 700 crore.

The plan envisages growth rate of 7.2 percent in GDP which will enable to achieve per capita income growth of about 4.9 percent which will greatly remove our endemic poverty. During the plan period agriculture is projected to grow at a rate of 6.3 percent 8.6 percent in manufacturing about 14 percent in construction 16 percent in power and gas and 9 percent in transport and trade services.

The plan aims at creating additional employment opportunities for 51.8 lakh people.

The plan also provides for expansion of Chhatak Cement factory Bagli-bazar Limestone Bijoypur White Clay and Silica sand for glass making.

Non conventional energy sources like solar and tidal will be developed.

Agriculture

In Bangladesh people live in 68000 villages 80 percent of the people are directly engaged in agriculture. [as published] Emphasis has been

given to agricultural development and creation of productive employment opportunities for the vast majority of rural work force. In the past agricultural growth has not been able to keep pace with population growth. The plan envisages an increase in wheat production by 7 lakh tons and Boro by 3 lakh tons over last year. In current year 39, [3 figures illegible] low lift pumps have been fielded--4,000 more than last year.

In 1980-81 24,000 additional shallow tubewells and 3000 deep tubewells will be installed and at least 6000 additional low lift [word illegible] will be fielded.

162 Canals have been dug covering an area of 550 miles. The canal-digging scheme includes digging of 250 canals which will cover an area of 900 miles. The scheme is fast nearing completion.

This will increase irrigated acreage from 3.1 million acres to 7.6 million acres.

Irrigation equipments are being sold to farmers at subsidised price:

Medium term Bank credit is being provided for high-yielding variety seeds:

Massive programme is being launched for local manufacture of agricultural equipments like weeders, thrashers, seed drills and hand pumps 27 such work shops are in operation.

Training programme to train mechanics is being undertaken.

Bangladesh Rice Research Institute and Agricultural Research Institute are being strengthened A Wheat Research Centre will be established A Seed Corporation is being set up next year. [as published]

Fertilizer target for next year is 11.5 lakh tons. 10 agricultural Extension Training Institutes will be set up.

Potato production has increased by one lakh ton over last year.

Jute cultivation schemes are taken up for increasing the yield per acre.

Production target of cotton is 3 lakh bales.

The annual growth rate of foodgrains at 7.1 percent and agricultural production at 6.3 per cent is not only realistic but also realisable.

Jute--In 1974-75 total earning was Tk. 286.92 crore, 1978-79 "697.90," 1979-80 unto 21 June '736.87" crore. [as published]

for the first time after liberation Jute Mills are confidently expecting a profit of Tk. 59 crore. In 11 (eleven) months ending on 31 May the Jute Mills Corporation has earned a foreign exchange of 534 crore out

out cumulative exports. [as published] In spite of poor quality affected by drought we have sold 20 lakh bales. Till 1 July 1980 Jute and Jute goods earned Tk.654.85 crores--12 percent of total export foreign exchange earnings.

In order to reduce the burden of subsidy the issue prices of rice and wheat have been increased from Tk. 120 to Tk 140 and Tk. 90 to Tk.100 from May this year. This will reduce the burden of subsidy by Tk. 16 crore.

Food

Present stock of foodgrains as on 20 June 1980: 7,62,610 tons Internal procurement of food grains:

Aman	1,75,465 "
Wheat	1,15, '87 "
Boro	<u>30,567 "</u>

3,29,719 tons [as published]

Drought

Last year we were faced with a grave situation arising out of long period of drought. There could have been a famine which was averted by the grace of Allah. Under the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman Government faced the situation with fortitude courage and promptness. Procurement shipment transportation internal movement and distribution took place very quickly and we succeeded in importing 20 lakh tons of food. I wish to assert that there is no dearth of food and no one died out of starvation. [as published]

Textiles

Speak on Textiles he said that 8 lakh acres of land will be brought under cotton cultivation to produce 6 lakh bales of cotton during plan period. [as published] 61 Textile mills are already operating and 6 additional mills are under construction. 26 new textile mills will be set up during the plan period in less developed areas. [as published]

The handloom industry is being reactivated. Production of silk yarn has gone up from 30 thousand bales to 80 thousand bales.

External Resources

Speaking on external resources flow he said for a country in our situation which was a colony for centuries and devastated by war and natural calamities under development is only natural.

Foreign aid for us is very much a matter of right. Better share of resources in technology resource in investment and resource in service are also our right. [as published.]

Aid flow to our country is not so large. It is less than 10 per cent of the GDP per annum. We are receiving less than Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Philippines, Egypt, Kenya, Mali and Chad (according to World Bank report). We are receiving only 43 per cent per capita. Third World countries have been demanding larger resource flow since 1958.

Charter of Algiers--1967 The UN General Assembly on May 1, 1974 made a comprehensive declaration for the establishment of the new international economic order. The resolution enjoined that economic as well as political and other relation among shall be governed by the principles of sovereignty and political independence of states sovereign equality of all states mutual and equitable benefit and no attempt to seek hegemony and spheres of influence. [as published]

Calling for removal of global inequity the resolution called upon every state to cooperate with the efforts of developing countries to accelerate their economic and social development by providing favourable external conditions and by extending active assistance with strict for the sovereign equality of states and free of any condition derogating from their sovereignty. [as published]

He quoted art 17 and 25 of the resolution which enjoined special attention to the needs of least developed countries (LDCs) he also referred to the UN resolution of 19 December 1979 providing for special measures in favour of the least developed amongst the developing countries.

Therefore the aids and grants we are receiving no charity and no strings are attached our outstanding foreign debt disabilities as on 1st January 1980 one U.S. \$2747.9 million [as published] Several countries including Canada, Denmark, Finland, FRG, Netherland, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK have converted loans into grants France, Belgium, Japan and U.S.A. are providing new grants. The loans are also obtained on soft terms payable over a period of 40 years with little interest. [sentences as published]

Every developing country of a new born country has to receive external resources for development. The new state of Zimbabwe has been provided with US dollar 150 million and Dollar 45 million aid by U.K. and U.S.A. recently.

We are however making every possible effort to mobilise internal resources and reduce our dependence on foreign assistance.

Law and Order

Speaking in Law and Order situation he said that the government has inherited a burden which seemed insurmountable. The urban industrialisation has its socio-economic effects on the general adult thereby creating

problems of mental and social adjustments. Deterioration of the normal standard growing permissiveness in younger generation less of their faith in old order have created proneness amongst our youth towards rowdiness and violence. [as published]

He said maintenance of law and order is not the responsibility of the Home Ministry alone all political parties and the people at large must contribute to the maintenance of law and order. [as published] He deprecated that some political parties have on the contrary contributed to the deterioration of law and order and unleashing of violence. It is unfortunate that a political party declared hartal on 19th of February and 7th of June--1980. The 19th of February was the first day of assembly session and on 7th June the budget was to be presented and BSC examination was to be held. [as published]

Calling for hartal is a fundamental right and every party is entitled to it. But no one is entitled to take law in his own hand and promote widespread violence and destruction of public property with impunity and then complain that the law and order situation has deteriorated. It is an irony that everybody condemned the unfortunate [word illegible] at Rangpur and Chittagong but no one condemned the burning down of Cinema Halls and loot and arson by demonstrators protesting these incidents.

The recommendations of the jail reforms commission he said will be implemented soon. The crime figures are much less than in 1971, 72 and 74.

With the withdrawal of emergency 7,629 detainees have been released. At present the number of detainees is only 232--lowest since independence.

Speaking on press freedom, he said, government firmly believes in the full freedom of the press and unfettered flow of information. The Press and Publications Act has been amended and liberalised. Government has repealed the annulment of Newspaper Act 1975. Under this act only four newspapers were allowed to be published. The total number of newspapers and journals rose to 283 in 1977, 327 in 1978, 428 in 1979 and 459 upto June 1980. There are more than 43 daily newspapers, 140 weeklies 23 fortnightlies and 145 monthlies. [as published] A Press Institute has been established for providing professional training to journalists. The Press Council regulates the freedom of the Press. For the first time in the history of this country, there is no censorship. RADIO BANGLADESH is operating from six regional stations. Through external services the radio is broadcasting its programmes in six languages including Arabic. Bangladesh Television has five relay stations. Such freedom of press as it exists today never existed before.

He cautioned that the freedom of the press must not be construed as a licence to defame and blackmail the government and create despondency amongst the people by transmission of false and motivated news items.

Commerce and Industry

Speaking on Commerce and Industry he said, export during the last 3 years has recorded considerable improvement. In 1975-76 export earning was only Tk 551 crore. It rose to Tk 928 crore in 78-79 and in the current year the export earning is Tk 1100 crore.

Export of non-jute items has risen to 31 percent. Wage Earners' Scheme has considerably improved the market stabilisation of essential goods in Industrial sector. The production of Urea in 75-76 was 2,82,140 tons. In 1979-80 it was increased to 3,50,000 tons. The production of paper in 1975-76 was 17,295 tons, in 79-80 it was increased to 33,000 tons. Production of newsprint in 1975-76 was 20,842 tons in 1979-80 it has gone upto 40,000 tons. The production of steel ingots in 1975-76 was 90,398 tons in 1979-80 it has gone upto 1,40,000 tons. Export earnings of non-traditional items in 1979-80 is Tk 47.14 crore. [sentences as published]

Education

Speaking on education he said the new education system will be technical oriented suiting the requirements of the modern age of science and technology. In the revenue budget a total sum of Tk 195.69 crore has been provided for education as against 169.34 crore Taka in the previous year. Tk 26.35 crore more will be spent this year in education sector than last year.

The allocation is 14 per cent of the total revenue. Tk. 93.34 crore has been earmarked for primary education alone. In the five year plan Tk. 905 crore has been allocated for development of education which is two and a half (2-1/2) times as much as the entire amount spent on education in 7 years. We will broaden the base of primary education link education with employment make science and technology basic concept of education system. [as published] Primary education which is a constitutional obligation will be compulsory free and universal.

Universalisation of primary education will be complete by 1985. We will provide free textbooks to fifty percent of the primary school boys and free uniform to 30 percent of girl students. Some secondary schools and madrasahs will be converted into community schools providing both general and technical education. There will be balanced development of selected government and nongovernment colleges. The work of setting up an Islamic University is already in progress steps are being taken for overall improvement of all Universities. We are also planning the restructuring of the Intermediate and Secondary Education Boards. [as published]

As the second phase for the President's call for revolution we have already embarked upon a massive much literacy campaign. It is aimed at providing functional literacy to 4 crore illiterates of this country.

Foreign Policy

Speaking on foreign policy he said that our foreign policy is based on moderation and pragmatism. The main objectives of our foreign policy are (a) Consolidation of national independence (b) Scrupulous respect for sovereign equality of all nations (c) Non-interference in internal affairs of states (d) Peaceful settlement of disputes and (e) Positive non-alignment.

Presidents visit to Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Philippines have added new dimension to bilateral relations. We have played pivotal role in the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conferences at Dakar, Tripoli, Fez Istanbul and Islamabad. Our significant achievement has been deepening and [words illegible] the Muslim world. Our Foreign Minister has already pleaded for establishment of the Islamic World Order which can be a bulwark of strength and security of Muslim countries.

We are playing the role as harbinger of Islam's message of peace and universal brotherhood of mankind. From Indonesia to Morocco, Bangladesh occupies a place of affection and esteem among Islamic countries.

Non-alignment forms cornerstone of Bangladesh's foreign policy and this has been reflected in our stand at the Security Council on problems of Indo-China Iran Afghanistan and the Middle East. Our stand differed with the two superpowers.

Our stand on Kampuchea, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Azania, South Africa also reflect this positive non-alignment. [as published]

President's proposals for regional summit for South Asian countries has received warm response. We hope, in the interest of One billion people in this region the summit will succeed in fostering an era of peace and development aimed at economic social and cultural cooperation.

The scramble for global supremacy power rivalry and escalation of arms have plunged the world into tension and insecurity. Bangladesh has been playing an effective role in helping resolve this tension.

Refuting an allegation from Mr Rashed Khan Menon to the effect that we have not opposed the Camp David accord he quoted resolution No 34 65B on Palestine at the 34th UN General Assembly Session which rejected those provisions of the Camp David accord which denied the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The same resolution also condemned all agreements and treaties and declared that the Camp David accord has no validity in so far as it purports to determine the future of the Palestinian people.

Bangladesh along with 74 countries voted in favour of the resolution. Bangladesh is also a party to the Havana Declaration adopted at the 6th non-aligned summit conference in 1979 and to the resolution of the 10th

and 11th Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference which categorically rejected the Camp David accord. He said our stand on Iran in various forums has been lauded in Iranian press.

Referring to the President's visit to Britain, he said that the invitation was extended to a state visit in November or to an official visit in June. Our President accepted the official visit which is a working visit. He was accorded same courtesies as were shown to other heads of governments who visited Britain recently. A special gesture of friendship was shown to our President by the British Prime Minister by welcoming our President on his arrival at the hotel. The President visit was considered to end when the Queen bid farewell to him after the luncheon she hosted in his honour at the Windsor Castle.

Speaking on inflation and price spiral he said inflation is a global phenomenon and in a developing country takes place because development expenditure create purchasing power without immediately increasing the volume of goods and services. Inflation is also due to international increase of prices transmitted into our economy through higher costs of our imports like raw materials, medicine and oil. The rate of inflation in our country is now 146%. (as published) It is much less than Thailand, Turkey, Philippines, South Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India and Taiwan.

He referred to the modernisation of airports and establishment of new ports. In the shipping sector he said our present shipping fleet of 25 ships will be raised to 40 and 11 (eleven) more jetties will be added.

About the Gram Sarkar he said the concept "has been widely acclaimed and has already generated brisk activities in rural areas.

Replying to the opposition criticism against the District Development Coordinator and the Envoy Pool he said that the District Development Coordinators have nothing to do with administration. Their business will be only to supervise and coordinate development activities. And the Pool of Envoys are intended to equip eligible Parliamentarians with knowledge of foreign relations and to train them up for assignment of specific jobs for the good of the country.

Replying to Mr Asaduzzaman Khan's allegation that the government has lost confidence of the people he said President Ziaur Rahman is firmly rooted amongst the people and his government is an elected government and its legitimacy can not be disputed. About change in the state principles he said the change is in accordance with the wish of the people and has been endorsed by a referendum. Denying the allegation that the daughters of late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are not being allowed to return home, he said that history will determine the position of Sheikh Shaheb whose daughters are welcome to return and are assured of full protection and security and due position in society.

He said the BAKSAL concept of politics is backdated and medieval. People will never accept the monolithic one-party system. He said the half-sleeve black coats Awami League members wear are symbolic of the black days of terror and violence.

While appreciating the role of the opposition as conscious dissenters he said dissent and difference are essence of democracy. He called upon to coexist with the government party in sustaining and nourishing democratic norms and in working out multi party system for peaceful transfer of power through periodical elections. [as published]

His 90 minutes speech was heard in pindrop silence and was punctuated by wit and humour and quotations from the Holy Quran and from Shakespeare.

When he resumed his seat he was complimented by both government and opposition members.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER EXPLAINS TENETS OF COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Jul 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof. Sham sul Huq on Thursday said that if the world was to avoid another war it must recognise the urgent and inescapable need for reordering the political and economic system on the foundation of the universal values of freedom, justice, equality and human dignity. [as published]

He was speaking at the 4th installation ceremony of Rotary Club, Ramna at British Council auditorium. It was also addressed, among others, by Jute Minister Mr Habibullah Khan, Director of CIRDAP Rotarian Azizul Huq, Rotarian Mashiur Rahman, District Governor of Rotary International and Rotarian V. G. Bennett, President of Rotary Club of Ramna.

Prof Huq said that politically, economically and morally the world of today was in great disarray. The crises were widening and deepening. The cause of crises were clearly rooted in historic memories and political and economic structures unsuited to the needs and interests of the present-day world society, he said.

Rule of Law

Prof Huq said that there was an emerging awareness that the crisis was grave and we must move in concert to overcome it. This new emerging trend in the thinking of the international community favoured the strengthening of the UN system for the establishment of the rule of law in international relations and of a new economic order for a more employment and more production of goods and services for the benefit of the entire world community, he said. [as published]

The Foreign Minister said that the widening disparity between the rich and poor nations of the world had assumed an alarming magnitude. The experiences of the developing countries during last three decades indicated that the causes of slow progress were embedded in global factors. For example, he said, the developing countries with two-third population

commanded only one-third of world resources, with a population of over two billion; the share of the developing countries in the production of manufactured goods was as low as 9 percent. The indebtedness of the poorest nations including Bangladesh had increased from 29.6 billion dollars in 1970 to 44.6 billion dollars in 1977, and projected to increase to 64.5 billion by 1985. The debt service charges of the poorest nations were estimated at 17.4 per cent of their export earnings in 1980. Ironically enough, he said, there was a net transfer of resources from the poor to the rich nations.

Arms Race

Prof Huq said that the escalation of the arms race had assumed a frightening dimension though the arsenal already built up by the great powers could destroy this planet many times over. He said that annual military spending was now well over 450 billion dollar while the official development assistance was under 45 billion dollar. The cost of a 10-year programme to meet the essential food and health needs in all developing countries would be less than half of one year's military spending, he said.

The Foreign Minister said that he personally believed that the present galloping arms race among the great powers was essentially a product of their sense of insecurity and mutual suspicion and distrust bred by their unhappy historical memories. But, he said, the continuing crises in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Southern Africa and Indo-China had sufficiently demonstrated that security could not be ensured through increasing application of resources to build weapons of destruction, "Security is global and indivisible, political and economic security are inseparable," he said.

Unity Needed

Prof Huq hoped that the nations of the world, both developed and developing, would recognise these realities and unite in their efforts to overcome the present political, economic and moral crises and resolve to build a better future on the foundation of mutual trust, understanding and "our shared human heritage." Towards this sovereign goal, he said, organisations like Rotary Club could play an invaluable role.

Non-Alignment

Prof Shamsul Huq said that non-alignment remained the cornerstone of Bangladesh foreign policy which enjoins respect for sovereign equality of all nations, non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations and non-use of force and peaceful settlement of all disputes.

He said that Bangladesh had "consistently expressed its solidarity with the movement directed to peace, freedom and justice along the path of development as opposed to an armed race which inevitably leads to war and destruction. He said that Bangladesh categorically repudiates a concept of peace on the tenuous balance of power among the great powers. Bangladesh also respected totally the idea of dividing the world into spheres of influence, he said.

CSO: 4220

BANGLADESH

COMMERCE MINISTER MEETS PRESS ON EXPORT-IMPORT POLICY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 4 Jul 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Suddiky, State Minister for Commerce, told a Press conference on Thursday that the Government had given highest importance to the consumers' interests in formulating the import and export policies for the current year announced early this week.

He explained the genesis of both the policies as well as the mechanism to be used for their implementation to newsmen at the Press conference held at a local hotel. Leaders and representatives of various chambers of commerce and industry in the country were also present.

He told a questioner that there was a machinery in the Ministry of Commerce for monitoring supply position of consumer items, with a view to ensuring their availability to meet the market demands.

He affirmed that the special "cell" in the Ministry of Commerce did undertake continual monitoring of the demand and supply position of consumers' goods in the market. He said that whenever a shortage or a potential scarcity was detected the ministry would arrange replenishing the market.

Price Rise

Replying to a question on the post-Budget price increase of baby food and "better" brand cigarettes, the Minister said that neither item was in short supply. As for baby food, he assured newsmen of adequate stock of the same with the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) and the Consumers' Supply Corporation (COSCOR). "We would flood the market with these, if need be," he said. He, however, pointed out that there was a need for the monitoring cell to improve its performance.

Call to Press

The State Minister for Commerce urged the Press to come up with its constructive suggestions for improving the market situation. He suggested

that "consumers protection societies" or similar bodies be formed to help protect the consumers' interests and stabilise the price levels. He denied charges of creating scarcity of certain items in the domestic market by allowing their large-scale exports although these were in no way "exportable surplus."

Nor was it true that the Government had unjustifiably allowed imports of such items as saree, lungi, markin cloths and bamboos. [as published] He pointed out that a ban on import of cotton saree and lungi had existed long since, while a ban had been imposed on import of markin cloths this year. Bamboos, on the other hand, had to be imported to meet requirements of the pulp and paper mills. Asked if locally grown bamboos could do the job, the Minister said the proposed bamboos were of a special kind suitable for the pulp and paper mills.

The State Minister for Commerce emphasised that every care was taken in determining the exportable surplus of both traditional and nontraditional items, in order to ensure that increased exports did not upset domestic markets. In projecting the exportable surplus, he added, the potentials for increased production or availability was always taken into account.

Public Private Sector

He said, in reply to a question that the import entitlement ratio between private and public sectors had been set at 40:60 in the current year's import policy. He explained that the share of the public sector had been increased in view of the international price hikes of certain bulk items like cement and billets.

He told the Press conference that last year the public sector utilised industrial licence worth Tk. 921 crore, while the private sector had utilised industrial licences worth Tk. 511 crore.

During the same year, he went on, public sector had been given commercial licences worth Tk. 208.19 crore while the private sector had got commercial licences worth Tk. 209.85 crore. He said that so far 5,000 commercial licences had been suspended on charges of nonutilisation.

The Minister said that better coordination and continuous monitoring in matters of commodity aid would be undertaken this year in order to ensure regular flow of commodity assistance.

BSS adds: Giving breakup of the sources of import financing the State Minister said that Taka 1500 crore out of Taka 2600 crore allocation for the import programme would be detailed from our own foreign exchange earnings. The share of external commodity assistance (aid/loan/grant), barter and Wage Earners Scheme (WES) would be Taka 525 crore, Taka 225 crore and Taka 350 crore respectively, he added.

As against Taka 776 crore of last year, he said the allocation for POL (Petroleum Oil and Lubricants) imports would be Taka 758.37 crore which excludes Taka 23 crore for high speed diesel (HSD) from the funds of barter with the Soviet Union. Mr Siddiky also informed that the allocation for import of coal would be Taka 59.76 crore.

On the allocation of industrial raw materials and spares, Mr Siddiky said that the share of public and private sectors would be Taka 1273.61 crore and Taka 735 crore respectively. In case of licences of commercial imports the share of public and private sector would be Taka 311.72 crore and Taka 279.56 crore respectively.

Barter Trade

On the projected increase of imports from barter sources from Taka 125 crore last year to 225 crore in the current year, Mr Siddiky said that barter trade was increasing for the last few years in 'our favour' and we are getting cash items like petroleum products, cements and billets. He said there was no reason for discouraging barter trade as we are getting cash items. In this context, he said that the projected turnover through barter also includes the turnovers under the special trade arrangements (STA) with some of the West European countries.

On the source of finance for both sectors, the State Minister said that licences worth Taka 1291 crore were given from our own cash resources from which licenses worth Taka 1265.13 crore have been utilised up to June 15, while licences worth Taka 410.63 crore have been given under commodity assistances. He said licences worth Taka 377.68 crore was utilised till June 15.

CSO: 4220

PARLIAMENT PASSES 1980-1981 NATIONAL BUDGET

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] The National Budget for the year 1980-81 was passed at the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday with the passage of the Appropriation Bill, 1980.

The bill authorising payment and appropriation of Taka 7,021 crore 58 lakh 52 thousand from and out of the consolidated fund for the services of the financial year ending June 30, 1981 was passed with 176 votes in favour and 17 votes against.

Earlier the Sangsad passed Finance Bill, 1980.

The Awami League members staged a walk out on the plea that the budget was "anti-people and dependent on foreign assistance."

AL Walk Out

The Leader of the House Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman termed the walk out by the Awami League members at the last stage of the passing of the budget as irresponsible unparliamentary and unprecedented.

The Prime Minister said that the Awami League Parliamentary Party was fully aware about the absolute majority of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party Parliamentary Party in the House and took part in all the deliberations. They could walk out after they heard the speech by the Finance Minister where the fiscal policy of the Government was spelt out.

The Leader of the House said that in 1975 the entire Finance Bill was carried through the House within seven minutes while the appropriation bill was passed within three minutes." We gave them the papers to go through but they do not have reading habits," he said.

He said that the walk out once again spoke of the wrong policy being pursued by the Awami League. "They do not believe in parliamentary norms. They want uncontrolled freedom in all respects," he said.

Mirza Golan Hafiz

The Speaker Mirza Golan Hafiz also deplored the walk out by the ALPP. He said that since the discussion on the Budget began on June 12, the House got 96 actual working hours for discussion. Of these, the BNP members spoke for 13 hours, the Awami League members were allowed 27 hours while other members spoke for 30 hours. Although the Awami League should have got only 12 hours on proportionate basis, they were allowed 27 hours, he said.

Saifur Rahman

Speaking on the Appropriation Bill, Finance Minister Mr M. Saifur Rahman called upon the members of the parliament to come forward and share hardship with the common man. We shall have to produce more goods and arrange equitable distribution of goods in order to ensure social justice, he said.

Nineteen members from the Opposition & Treasury Benches participated in the discussion on the Appropriation Bill. They were: Mr Siddiqur Rahman, Mr Mohammad Mohsin, Mr Nazrul Islam, Mr Suchangsu Sekhar Halder, Mr Asaduzzaman, Mr A. B. M. Taleb Ali, Mr Shaukat Ali, Mr Lutfar Rahman, Mr Rashed Mosharraf & Mr Salahuddin Yusuf of Awami League, Mr Shahjahan Siraj and Mirza Abdul Latif of JSD, Prof. Khalilur Rahman and Mr Almas Hussain of Muslim League, Prof. Musuffar Ahmed of NAP (M), Mr A. S. M. Solaiman of Gano Front, Mr Rashed Khan Menon of Ganotantrik Andolan, Mr Rustam Ali and Mr Siddiqur Rahman of BNP.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES IMPORT POLICY FOR 1980-1981

Increase Over 1979-1980

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Jul 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] The government on Monday night announced a Taka 2,600 crore import bill for fiscal 1980-81 covering expenditure on account of import of essential consumer commodities, industrial raw materials and spares and energy, reports BSS.

This was the first year's import projection under the Second Five-Year Plan (SFYP) showing an increase of Taka 750 crore in the allocation from the level of fiscal 1979-80 in which the import projection was for Taka 1,850 crore.

Announcing the Import Policy in a simultaneous broadcast over Radio and Television on Monday evening Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiky, Minister of State for Commerce hoped that the increased allocation would be able to ensure abundant supply of commodities in the market and keep prices stable.

The Import Policy was earlier approved in a meeting of Council of Ministers held in Dacca on Monday morning with President Ziaur Rahman in the chair.

Essential Commodities

Mr Siddiky said one of the principal objectives of the Import Policy was to ensure sufficient supply of imported essential commodities and increase of industrial production through smooth supply of raw materials so that the common people could get their essential commodities everywhere, easily and in fair price.

SFYP

The Minister of State for Commerce termed the SFYP as "symbol of many of our hopes and aspirations." He said necessary measures had been taken

in the Import Policy to help the important development activities of the SFYP like food production, mass education, family planning, public health and transport sectors.

But, he added: "We must admit that our resources are limited and the gap between our aspirations and ability is very wide.

Mr Siddiky said that despite limitation of resources, "we have tried to frame the Import Policy as a public welfare and production oriented, easy, liberal and well-balanced one."

OGL

Explaining the measures undertaken in the field of commercial imports, the State Minister said that the number of items importable under the Open General Licence (OGL) scheme had been increased. The items which could be importable under OGL are milk, food, unrefined soyabean oil, oilseeds for recognised industries, vegetable seeds and fruit saplings, callow, coconut oil, books and periodicals, medicines, surgical equipment, scientific equipment and educational aids, x-ray film, dyes and chemicals, tyres and tubes, spares of motor cars and cycles, marine engine spares equipment for irrigation, raw materials for production of equipment by recognised agents and industries.

Mr Siddiky said it was expected that unrestricted import of such goods would immensely support the food production, mass literacy, public health and transport development programmes.

Permit Fees

The Minister of State for Commerce also announced that the certain commercial items had been raised from Taka 10,000 to Taka 30,000 which would help remove a long standing problem of such small importers. Moreover, the import licence and permit fees were reorganized and registration fees of the importers had been reduced which would also reduce the cost of imports. Mr Siddiky expressed the hope that these measures would have some happy reaction on the prices situation.

Mr Siddiky said that the Government had decided to recruit some new importers to give opportunity to new comers in the import trade particularly the exporters and those of relatively undeveloped areas. Detailed principles will be announced very soon, the Minister said.

Cement Import

While referring to the uncertainties and failures of the private sector importers of cement the Minister said that they (importers) could not live up to the expectation in the past. However, he added, the Government had decided to give them an opportunity once again in view of the

very increasing demand for cement in the country. He hoped the importers would be able to utilise this chance.

While "grouping" prior to letters of credit (L/C) registration in Bangladesh Bank for importers would continue. The State Minister said that grouping after registration of L/C form would be introduced from this year. However, Mr Siddiky said, the importers under the individual groups must be under administration of a single import office.

Repeat Licence

The State Minister said that facility of "repeat licence" for commercial imports would be extended when necessary. Besides this, there will be provision for actual users licence, in which the import of kids of cattles and poultries have been included. [as published]

In case of industrial licences, the State Minister said that adequate allocation had been made for the public sector industries. The industries in the private sector under priority list number one and two will get licence at the rate of 100 percent and 75 percent respectively of their entitlements.

But those in the priority list of pharmaceutical industries will get licence at the rate of 150 per cent of their entitlements. Moreover, he said, the repeat licencing facility would continue.

Export-Oriented Industries

Mr Siddiky said that a provision of Taka 10 crore had been made for setting up export-oriented industries and there in less developed areas to help setting up of export oriented industries as shortly as possible. He referred to Government's policy of increasing exports in view of the huge trade gap and expressed the hope that the business community and entrepreneurs would come forward for utilising this opportunity to contribute to the development of the nation and the country. He said that liberal policy had been kept for import of raw materials by the exporters to go, these facilities. [as published] Such industries will be given cash licences for importing their raw materials provided they trade under "Bonded Ware House" scheme and possessed Export Orders or Letters of Credit. [as published]

XPL To Continue

Mr Siddiky said special and additional licences would be given to the deserving export-oriented industries and added that if necessary, the export-oriented textile manufacturing units might be given licences for importing yarns of banned counts, the imports under Export Performance Licence scheme (XPL) would also continue.

the State Minister stressed the importance of handloom industries as the biggest cottage industry of the country and said that the allocation for handloom cooperatives had been more than doubled for import of raw materials, he said.

Licences worth Taka 3 crore, Taka 2 crore and Taka 2 crore would be given respectively through the National Cooperative Society, the Handloom Board and directly to the handloom cooperatives. [as published]

In view of demands of the Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and other chambers, the State Minister said that time frame for making import had been extended as much as possible. He said in cases of import under cash licence, Letters of Credits for the first and second halves of the quota of importers should be opened within the 31st December, 1980 and 30th April 1981 respectively. In cases of aid and barter sources, the Letters of Credits should be opened as quickly as possible, after allocation or imports.

Like the current year, the commercial importers and nationalised industries would be able to open Letter of Credit directly in banks.

New Items Allowed

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Jul 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Five new items have been included in the list of importables under the Wage Earners Scheme (WES) in the import policy for fiscal 1980-81 announced in Dacca on Monday evening, reports BSS.

The items are old books and periodicals, pedestal fans, main switch (above 30 amperes), auto cables and water purification machines.

While announcing the import policy, Chowdhury Tadbir Ahmed Siddiky, Minister of State for Commerce; said that the total imports under the WES in the fiscal year would be worth Taka 350 crore as against Taka 240 crore to 250 crore of the fiscal 1979-80.

However, the State Minister announced that the import of foreign cigarettes under WES scheme had been banned. He said higher brand foreign cigarettes worth Taka 4 crore were imported last year on payment of 400 per cent import duty. He said, we feel that this amount should be spent in productive sectors by not spending on account of imports of cigarettes.

While ban on the import of commodities which are banned under the current import policy would continue, the State Minister announced fresh bans on the import of coarse cotton fabric (markin), knitting wool, glass sheet of (six) millimetre thickness, kodali and locks up to 2.5 inches size during fiscal 1980-81.

However, he said, import of wools for manufacturing carpets for export and glass for looking glass manufacturers would be allowed.

The ban on import of cotton yarn between 20 and 80 counts would continue. In case of hosiery, yarn and the import of yarns between 20 and 80 counts have been banned. But the handloom industries would be able to import 80 count yarns up to 25 per cent of their allocation.

Mr Siddiky said, the hosiery industries would also be able to import yarns from 20 to 80 counts up to 50 per cent of their entitlements. However, yarns of all counts could be imported under the Wage Earners Scheme.

The State Minister said that the import of cotton lungis, cotton sarees, and printed cotton fabric above 36 inches width would remain banned. Except white, blue, khaki and brown coloured drill cloths, no other drill cloths could be imported.

The State Minister also said that the minimum import price of fountain pen and blades had been fixed above Taka 7.50 and poisha (as published) 20 per piece respectively.

Mr Siddiky also announced that all the items imported under the Wage Earners Scheme would now be imported under the Export Performance Licences (XPL) scheme also.

While praising the importance and contribution of the WES, the State Minister said that there was no shortage of essential commodities in the market owing to the continuation of quick imports under the scheme.

He refuted allegations that luxury goods were imported under the WES and said that scents and cosmetics which were available in the market were not allowed to be imported under the WES. He said, Bangladesh nationals on return from abroad bring such scents and cosmetics under "passenger baggage" rules which they sell to the local businessmen.

He said that the provision for taking prior permission from the Directorate of Industries for import of old machinery under the Wage Earners Scheme had also been repealed. The detailed notification to this effect would be announced soon.

CSO: 4220

COMMERCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES 1980-1981 EXPORT POLICY

Summary of Speech

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jul 80 p 1, 12

[Text] The Export Policy for 1980-81 envisages an export earning of Taka 1500 crore. This target is 36.36 per cent higher than that of the last year. The earnings from exports of jute and jute goods would be 64.33 per cent of the projected earnings in 1980-81 and those from non-jute items 35.67 per cent. The projected earnings from exports of primary products at Taka 531.50 crore will be 35.43 per cent of the export target for 1980-81 and those from manufactured goods 64.57 per cent.

Announcing the export policy for 1980-81 over the radio and television on Tuesday Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiky State Minister for Commerce felt that the exporters both in public and private sectors would have to make increasing and more bold efforts than ever before to reach the export target for the year. He reminded all concerned that a recession was prevailing in the world markets, particularly in the economies of the industrialised countries for a considerable period of time.

The State Minister noted that the Government was particularly aware of the need for strengthening and diversifying the export promotional activities as well as for creating new markets for our export goods in the foreign countries. He noted that the National Export Council with President Zia as its Chairman had recently been formed in this connection to coordinate the export drive at the highest national level.

Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiky observed that the export policy for 1980-81 was very significant for the country in view of the fact that the Second Five Year Plan was being launched in the year for bringing about an all round national development. He said that the Government would accord a special priority on removal of ever increasing trade imbalances of the country during the Second Five Year Plan. Highlighting the export strategy would be to (1) ensure steady utilisation of resources for making the export drive a success on a priority basis (2) pursue a consistent set of basic objectives for the related export drive (3) materialise the objectives at the national level and (4) coordinate in a steady manner the related measures for export promotion.

Underlining the importance of raising the exportable surplus of the country he said that the export earnings would have to be increased with all out efforts of all concerned agencies with a view to meeting the ever rising import bill. He pointed out in this connection that the trade imbalance of the country increased to Taka 1244.44 crore in 1978-79 from Taka 1081.02 crore in 1977-78. While expressing his satisfaction over the recent performance in the export trade sector he noted that the export earnings had registered an average increase of 25 per cent per annum over the last four years.

While giving a review of the export performance in 1979-80 he stated that the actual export earnings during July April period of the year were Taka 961.27 crore as against the actual export earnings of Taka 928.22 crore during the whole of 1978-79. He anticipated that the actual export earnings in 1979-80 would reach the level at slightly over Taka 1100 crore. He felt in this context that the export promotion drive would have to be mounted up further in future to enable us to meet increasingly out of our own foreign exchange earnings the ever rising import bill.

The State Minister said that the Government would continue to offer liberal incentives for the exporters in 1980-81. He noted that "ready-made garments and specialised textiles" had been selected as the export item of the year" with a view to facilitating the rapid expansion and development of this export oriented industry.

He pointed out that preshipment and packing credit from the banks at concession rates would continue for the exporters in 1980-81. The existing facilities for rebate on different duties and refund of taxes also continue and further arrangements for introduction of a flat rate system in connection with rebate on duties and refund of taxes for all exportable manufactured items is being taken he added.

BSS adds: The major item wise export earning targets are raw jute (25 lakh bales) Taka 287 crore, jute manufactures Taka 648 crore, jute yarn and [word illegible] twin Taka 20 crore, frozen food group Taka 114 crore, [word illegible] group Taka 8 crore, shark [word illegible] and fish maws Taka 3 crore, spices group Taka 8.50 crore, fresh fruits and vegetables Taka 4 crore, tea (74 million lbs.) Taka 74 crore, tanned and semi-tanned leather Taka 140 crore, furnace oil and naptha Taka 60 crore, paper and paper products Taka 27 crore, electric wires and cables Taka 4 crore, handicrafts Taka 7 crore, ready made garments Taka 12 crore, household linens and specialised textiles Taka 5 crore, packet tea Taka 3 crore, stainless steel cutlery Taka 3 crore, medicines Taka 3 crore, [word illegible] plates Taka 3.50 crore, molasses Taka 1.50 crore, glycerine Taka 1 crore, furniture Taka 1.50 crore, G. I. pipes Taka 50 lakhs, telephone wires Taka 4 crore, crushed bones Taka 1 crore, timber Taka 1.50 crore, betel leaves Taka 4 crore, potato Taka 3 crore and tobacco Taka 3 crore.

Export Earnings Doubled

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh's export earnings have doubled during the last five years official figures available in Dacca indicated reports BSS.

The export earnings in fiscal 1979-80 was a little over Taka 1100 crores as against the actual export earnings of Taka 551.69 crore in fiscal 1975-76.

The export earnings in fiscal years 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 were Taka 625.50 crore Taka 740.61 crore and Taka 928.22 crore respectively. With the gradual increase of export earnings the share of non-jute products has also increased from 19.14 per cent in 1972-73 to 31.67 per cent in fiscal 1979-80.

The total export earnings in the first 10 months of fiscal 1979-80 stood at 961.27 crore Taka of which jute and jute goods contributed Taka 658.88 crores or 68.13 per cent. On the other hand the non-jute items fetched Taka 306.39 crore or 31.87 per cent.

The export performance of major commodities during the first ten months of 1979-80 were leather and leather products Taka 100.66 crore tea Taka 44.50 crore; furnace oil Taka 31.93 crore, frozen food Group Taka 50.70 crore, naptha Taka 43.04 crore, betel leaves Taka 1.16 crore, handicrafts Taka 4.11 crores, newsprint paper and paper products Groups Taka 14.20 crores and telephone wires Taka 1.02 crore.

CSO: 4220

PRIME MINISTER CRITICIZES AWAMI LEAGUE FACTION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Jul 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Leader of the House Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday that there was no scope for holding any interim elections in the country. The present government is duly elected by the people and will continue to stay in power till the completion of its term he asserted.

Participating in the debate on the Finance Bill, 1980 the Prime Minister refuted the Opposition demand for the resignation of the Government. He said, 'we are an elected Government and we have not come through someone's courtesy or through conspiracy' he told the Opposition.

He particularly lashed out at the Awami League (Ma'lek) members and asked them to disassociate themselves from the 'politics of terrorism' and wait till the next election for getting the people's verdict in favour of them.

AL Destroy Democracy

He accused the Awami League of destroying democracy in the past. Amidst protest from Awami League (Ma'lek) members he told the Sangsad that it was Awami League which imposed Martial Law in the country against the will of the people. He said that it was Awami League which formed the Government after the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975. They remained in power till November 7, 1975, and many of them including the present Leader of the Opposition Mr Asaduzzaman Khan were ministers at the time, he said.

When Awami League (Ma'lek) members vehemently protested and tried to obstruct the speech the Prime Minister said that he could prove what he was saying. 'These are bitter truth' he said and added, 'I can prove that even Mr Asaduzzaman Khan drew his salary as Minister till November 7, 1975.'

Referring to the demand for the trial of killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four Awami League leaders inside Dacca Central Jail he said that it was the Awami Government who by an ordinance sealed the way for holding any trial of the killings.

A number of Awami League (Malek) members including Mr Asaduzzaman Khan tried to create a noisy scene obstructing the proceedings. The Leader of the House who was visibly angry at this obstruction told them 'I am talking of history. I will resign if can't prove what I am saying' he said 'the bitter truth may hurt you, but history speaks for itself.' (as published)

Shah Azizur Rahman said that the talk of democracy on the lips of Awami Leaguers sounded like a farce. The people of the country knew about their undemocratic activities he said. In this connection he mentioned that the President had absolute power including that of veto during the time of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The present Government had amended the Constitution curtailing the right of veto power of the President, he said.

He further mentioned that it was the Government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman which put the country under Emergency Rule. They killed thousands of youth in the country during the Emergency Rule and JSD leaders including A.S.M. Abdur Rab and Shahjahan Siraj were put behind the bar.

House Sovereign

The Leader of the House referred to the contention of Opposition regarding the lack of sovereignty of the Jatiya Sangsad and reiterated that the Parliament was sovereign. He asked them to quote from the constitutions of France, Canada, Australia and United Kingdom and prove their point. Only making observations that the House was not sovereign would not do, he told them. He said that the Opposition had no arguments in favour of their contentions.

Bureaucracy

He refuted the Opposition arguments that the Government was dependent on bureaucracy. For the first time in the country's history we have taken steps to reorganise the colonial administration and to introduce a new system of administration in the country," he said.

Referring to the Opposition's contention of the President's staying in the Cantonment area the Prime Minister reiterated that the President was occupying the same small apartment where he used to live when he was Colonel in the Armed Forces.

He said that a large number of civilians lived in the Cantonment residential area and someone might have special attachment for a house. He mentioned that late President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did not live in the Bangabhaban or Ganobhaban and preferred to stay in his own residence at Dhanmondi. He further said that Leader of the Opposition Mr Asaduzzaman Khan when he was a Minister during Awami League Government also stayed

in his own house and not in Government accommodation. He also mentioned that late Egyptian Leader Col Nasser lived in his own house throughout his career as the President of his country.

In this connection the Prime Minister mentioned that President Ziaur Rahman drew ten per cent less salary as the President of the country than former President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

CSO: 4220

PETROLEUM MINISTER REPORTS NEW GAS FIELDS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Jul 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] Lt. Col. (Retd) Akbar Hossain, Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources on Wednesday laid the foundation of the petro-centre annexe of the proposed 15-storied Petro-Complex at Kawran Bazar.

The petro-centre annexe will house the offices of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company. All the departments and organisations of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources will be housed in the complex which will have a centrally air-conditioned floor area of about 1,89,000 square feet. [as published]

Lt Col. (Retd.) Akbar Hossain said that the decision to build the complex was taken to facilitate works of the Petro-Bangla, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Bangladesh Mineral Extraction and Development Corporation, Geological Survey and Bureau of Mineral Resources Development.

The Minister said that 10 gas fields have so far been discovered in the country. Recently gas has been found at Begumganj in Noakhali. He said that works were progressing to construct 110 mile long pipe line from Bakhrabad Gas Field to Chittagong. The Bakhrabad field would meet the demands of the Chittagong, Noakhali and Comilla, he said.

Appreciating the role of the Titas Gas in popularising the use of natural gas the Minister said that 1,062 miles of pipe lines had been laid and 1,12,000 gas connections had been given so far. The company was now selling 9.00 crore cubic feet of gas on an average per day helping the nation save about 300 crore taka annually. [as published]

Lt Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain Further said that the Government was trying to meet the energy needs of the northern and southern regions of the country with the Lequefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders. [as published]

The Minister said that bitumen plant at Chittagong will soon go into production turning out 70 thousand tons of bitumen of which 30 thousand tons could be exported after meeting the nations demands.

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT DEPORTS FORMER MARTIAL LAW OFFICIAL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 80 p 16

[Text] Dacca, July 2 (PTI): Bangladesh former deputy martial law administrator, Air Vice-Marshal M.G. Toab, who flew to Dacca airport after four years of exile yesterday was forcibly sent back to Bangkok by the return flight of Thai international later in the evening.

Air Marshal Toab (48), who lives in West Germany with his German wife; arrived at Dacca airport by a Thai plane, but immigration people could identify him. After detention at the airport VIP lounge for several hours he was deported to the return Thai flight to Bangkok as he was not allowed entry into Dacca city by the authorities.

Air Marshal Toab was appointed chief of the Bangladesh Air Force by former President Khondkar Moushtaque Ahmad, following the August 15, 1975, military coup in which former President Sheikh Mujib was toppled and killed. But, after the fall of Kondkar Mushtaque in early November, 1975, Toab became one of the three deputy martial law administrators along with Ben Ziaur Rahman. After a few months in office Air Marshal Toab was forced to leave Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT REPEATS CLAIM TO TWO ISLANDS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Jul 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh has reiterated its claim on the two islands, Purbasha and South Talpatti, along the border river Hariabhanga near the Sunderbans.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday said that Bangladesh had enough evidences including satellite images to clearly show that the border river Hartabhanga flows to the west of the islands, Purbasha and South Talpatti and so, these two islands belong to Bangladesh. He said that Bangladesh had supplied the documents to the Indian Government about two months ago. Though the documents were clear evidences of the ownership of the two islands Bangladesh had proposed a joint survey with a view to finding an amicable settlement on the issue in the spirit of good neighbourly relations, he said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman blamed the Indian Government of now trying to back out from its commitment for a joint survey. He said that the then Indian Prime Minister Mr Morarji Desai during his visit to Dacca agreed to Bangladesh's proposal for a joint survey on the two islands. From that time on Bangladesh tried to take necessary follow-up action to implement the agreement on joint survey, but the spokesman added, the Indian side had dragged its feet on the issue.

Commenting on the recent statements in the Indian Parliament by the government leaders the spokesman said that such statements were not helpful. The answers in the Indian Parliament were to put blame on Bangladesh which he said was unfortunate and undesirable.

The spokesman said that at present there was no habitation in the two islands. However, he added, Bangladesh Navy patrol was very alert in the Hariabhanga river.

When his attention was brought to Press reports about crossing of some Indian nationals to Bangladesh border in view of disturbances in Assam and Tripura the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the reports are yet

to be confirmed. He said that Bangladesh had been keeping a constant watch on the recent developments in the north eastern states of India and the border security had been tightened.

Terming the demarcation of maritime boundary as a major issue between Bangladesh and India he said that the issue was yet to be solved. He said that there had been progress in talks with Burma regarding the demarcation of maritime boundary. Bangladesh, he added, wanted to demarcate its maritime boundary with India and Burma simultaneously.

Referring to the 1974 agreement on demarcation of land boundary between Bangladesh and India he said that Dacca was ready to implement the agreement. But Delhi, he said was dragging its feet on the question of implementation of the Mujib-Indira agreement signed between Bangladesh and India in June, 1974.

About the summit of the six South Asian states the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the initial response to this proposal was encouraging. He, however added that no formal communication was received from other capitals in response to President Ziaur Rahman's personal letter to other head of the states for the summit.

CSO: 4220

OPPOSITION LEADER TERMS FINANCE BILL 'ANTIPEOPLE'

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] Leader of the Opposition Mr Asaduzzaman Khan described the Finance Bill 1980, as anti-people and contrary to the national interests.

Participating in the discussion on the bill during its third reading at the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday, Mr Khan said that distress of the commonman due to economic hardship would be multiplied by the new fiscal measures.

He said that new taxes amounting to Taka 100 crore and 44 lakhs would destroy the poor. He said that tax measures had been designed to eliminate the poor under the pressure of the instrument of oppression and exploitation unleashed by the government on them.

Launching a blitzkrieg on the economic policy of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition said that the Finance Bill, 1980 reflected the policy of exploitation of the masses in the style of Ayub regime. The policy of exploitation was being pursued by the government since the political change-over in 1975, he said. [as published] He accused the Government of creating an "exploiting class."

Mr Asaduzzaman Khan observed that benefits of tax exemption would not be enjoyed by the poor. Rather, he said, the richer section of the society would reap the benefit out of these measures, he said.

He said that the burden of sales tax would increase the miseries of the people. He expressed the apprehension that the powers of arrest and seizing property vested with the excise official would be misused to the plight of the people.

CSO: 4220

SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN POWER OBJECTIVES REVIEWED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jul 80 pp 8, 9

[Text] It is a recognised fact all over the world that power determines the development of a country. In other words it can safely be called an index of progress. Still more, power to development is what fire is to civilization. The per capita consumption of power in the industrialized countries today stands at several thousand KWH as against only 17 KWH in our country. (Over 9000 KWH in the USA).

The history of electricity in Bangladesh goes back to 1947 when generating capacity was only 21 M W. This capacity rose to only 88 M. W. in 13 years to meet the demand of 42 M.W. Obcourse during the next ten years the generating capacity rose to 475 M.W. to meet the instant demand of 223 M.W. in 1970, the average growth rate of demand showing 15%. [as published] Although the figures in the generation sector showed a jump, the distribution position was not steady and the service to consumers was unsatisfactory. Even in this meagre generation and erratic supply there was in-built imbalances. These imbalances can be attributed to a number of causes including excessive dependence on foreign assistance problems in timely procurement of equipment and materials, wrong planning, shortage of skilled personnel, lack of proper maintenance.

These imbalances were atmost chronic between generation and distribution capacities as well as unbalanced regional development. Over and above, the system suffered widespread destruction during the war of liberation in 1971.

With a view to removing imbalances and improving generation and distribution system some specific measures were taken during the 1st Five-year plan (1973-78). The plan allocated Tk. 423.55 crore to the power sector, 11.30% of the total public sector programme. (1) to remove regional imbalances in power distribution facilities. (2) To remove inbalance in generation and distribution facilities by building up adequate distribution facilities in urban and rural areas (3) to integrate the power transmission and distribution system into gride (4) to improve the quality of service and (5) to undertake effective rural electricity programme primarily to provide power to irrigation pumps and tube-wells, small and cottage industries, etc. [as published]

However, because of high rate of inflation and recession in the donor countries Bangladesh did not get the expected assistance. The generation of domestic resources also fell short of projection. The situation called for review of the plan projection and strategy leading to the formulation of a hard-core programme for the last three years of the plan.

Although the Resource position improved and the annual flow of fund maintained at higher level than the previous years, the total release was still below expectation. The total actual expenditure at current prices was Tk. 374.65 crore as against the original allocation of 423.85 crore.

The physical achievement fell far behind the targets in almost all sectors during the plan period. The power sector was allocated Tk. 295.54 crore under the 2-Year Plan (1978-80) with the objective of clearing up the backlog and consolidating the gains of the 1st-Five Year Plan. While historically power sector received 14% of the total development outlay in the public sector, 2-Year Plan allocation to the sector was down to 9%. This allocation was found to be quite inadequate owing to the urgent necessity for clearing up the huge outstanding liabilities of Tk. 45 crore, increased disbursement of project aid, payment of debt service from ADP, increased establishment and overhead charge.

Second Plan

In the background of the 1st-Five-Year Plan, hard core programme and the 2-Year Plan the Government have formulated the Second-Five Year Plan making an allocation of Tk. 2,000 crore for the power sector, which still suffering from some deficiencies. [as published] Of this total allocation the share of PDB is Tk. 1440 crore--Tk 677 crore for generation subsector, Tk. 271 crore for transmission subsector and Tk. 292 crore for distribution subsector. The allocation represents a little but over 6% of the total public sector outlay as compared to 9% in the 2-Year Plan and 14% in the 1st Five-Year Plan. [as published]

Objective of the 2nd Five Year Plan

The 2nd-Five Year Plan for the power sector has the goal to overcome the crippling problems besides increasing the system capacity so that supply of electricity no more remain a constraint to economic growth of the country. [as published] The following objectives are proposed for the sector keeping this goal in mind.

- (1) To expand generation and distribution of electricity in order to accelerate economic and social development.
- (2) To reduce the use of imported fuels as far as economically justified, and technically feasible.

- (3) To reduce inter regional imbalance in per capita consumption of electricity as well as that between the rural and urban areas;
- (4) To accelerate rural electrification programme to promote rural development and to improve the quality of life in the rural areas;
- (5) To improve the quality of supply and services, particularly to ensure reliable supply to the productive sectors of the economy,
- (6) To reduce system losses, pilferage of electricity, wastage and misappropriation of resources.

Strategies

- (1) The whole country will be connected into a single power grid, except for the offshore island and where the terrain is difficult. This would reduce the overall generation cost by reducing reserve capacity and allowing the use of larger sized units, and would also improve the reliability of supply. The eastern zone is already much advanced in the process of integration the programme for 2nd Plan will complete the process all over the country. [as published] As more and more areas will be connected to the grids, small scale power generation in these areas will be replaced by supply from larger and efficient power stations.
- (2) Consumption of electricity is now concentrated in large cities, though the networks have already been expanded to about three fourth of the total number of them the structure of the networks has disproportionately large share of sub-transmission (33 KV) lines. [as published] The expansion strategy should therefore be to accelerate construction of [word illegible] voltage lines (11 KV and 400 230 Volt) and connection of consumers so as to fully utilize the existing transmission and sub-transmission capacity.
- (3) Proportion of distribution facilities in the west Zone will enhanced in order to increase the number of consumers and per capita electricity consumption in that region. [as published]
- (4) To improve reliability of supply, the engineering and material deficiencies of the distribution networks will be removed. Among the engineering steps are: the balancing of phases sectionalizing of long lines, use of equipment and parts of proper specification, coordination of relays, etc. On the materials side chronic deficiencies of protective, and controlling equipments should be put to an end. Better operation and preventive maintenance practices as opposed to breakdown maintenance should be introduced. This will require better skill as well as spare parts and equipment. Besides, adequate reserve generation capacity and alternate transmission and distribution facilities are also required for preventive maintenance.

(5) In order to ensure greater supply reliability for industries sector, steps will be taken to provide double supply routes to important industries.

(6) To reduce energy losses due to technical reasons, such as excessive resistance, overloading, low power factor and phase imbalance proper identification of losses at various stages will be done by installing and repairing meters. [as published] Detailed action programme will then be formulated on the basis of the findings. A significant part of the consumption of electricity is believed to go unbilled either for metering deficiencies or malpractice, or both. The remedial measures called for in this respect are mainly administrative. Specifications should include:

(a) Periodic checking of meters by special squads;

(b) Quick disciplinary action leading to deterrent punishment for corrupt employees; [as published]

(c) continuous change of beat areas of the meterreaders; [as published]

(d) Incentive payment to anybody for information leading to successful detection of pilferage; and [as published]

(e) quick disposal of electricity pilferage cases by special magistrates.

(7) The power sector organisation should be re-structured at the same time, better organisation policies should be introduced and adequate training should be provided at various levels to motivate and enable the individuals to work more efficiently. [as published]

Load Demand:

It is estimated that with the resources available for the power sector a maximum demand of 1035 M. V. can be met at the end of the Plan period. This projection would allow growth of consumption at the rate of 16%. Consumption will grow at the rate of 13% of households in 23000 villages (35% of the country's total) will be connected to electricity by the REB.

According to the projection, the number of urban consumers will from current 450,000 to 725,000 and the number of rural consumers will be about 14 lakhs. The total number of irrigation pumps operating on electricity will be 31,000 compared to the present number of about 3,000. A number of electricity-run rural industries will be 8,000. [as published]

It is estimated that in 1984-85, the zone-wise share of peak demand in BPDB serviced areas will be 2/3 for east and 1/3 for west. [as published]

The present proportions are 3/4 and 1/4 respectively. Peak demand of BPDB loads in the East and West Zones will thus be 550 MW, and 275 respectively. The change in share in favour of the west zone will follow from stepping up development activities there.

The total rural peak demand in 1984-85 will be 113 MW in the east zone and 97 MW in the west zone. Total peak demand of BPDB and REB in east and west zones will be 663 MW and 372 respectively in 1984-85. This implies 13% growth rate in east zone, 24% in west zone and 16% for the whole country. Beyond 1984-85 a uniform growth rate of 12% for both zones has been projected up to 1989-90.

Investment Programme

The programme of generation subsector has been made in accordance with the projection of demand. In the first year of the plan a number of existing power stations will be rehabilitated thereby adding 122.2 MW to the available capacity of the system. [as published] Besides five plants already under construction will contribute another 278.6 MW during the plan period. Further 375 MW will be added by four new power stations to be taken up and commissioned during the Plan period. These new stations will be (i) 25 MW Barisal Barge-Mounted Power Plant, (ii) 200 MW extension of Ashugani Power Station, (iii) 100 MW extension Ghorasal Power Station (iv) 50 MW extension of Bheramara Power Station. The generation programme includes six other new plants which will be taken up during the Plan period. But commissioned later on, namely, (i) the second 100 MW unit at Ghorasal, (ii) 100 MW extension of Kaptai Hydro Power Station, (iii) a new 100 MW plant in the west zone, (iv) 125 Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, (v) a 100 MW station in Chittagong and (vi) another 100 MW unit either at Ghorasal or Ashugani.

Transmission:

The existing 132 KV network covers all districts of the country except Tangail, Faridpur, Barisal and Patuakhali. Strategically it will be economic and efficient to bring these remaining districts within the 132 KV grid system as it will increase reliability of supply to these areas and reduce the overall cost of generation. A line from Khulna to Barisal is now under construction and will be energized in September 1980. Two other projects to extend 132 KV network from (i) Tongi to Tangail, (45 miles) and (ii) from Bheramara to Barisal via Faridpur (150 miles) are already approved and will be completed under the 2nd Plan. A new project to connect (i) Joypurhat with Barisal (30 miles) is included in the Plan. Two other lines of great importance will be built to connect (i) Joypurhat with Bogra and (ii) Shahjampur with Ishurdi to facilitate power supply to the limestone mining/cement factory projects and the Pabna irrigation project respectively. [as published]

The existing 132 KV lines are generally underloaded. Therefore, augmentation of their capacities will not be necessary during the 2nd plan period except for the 2nd circuit on Ishurdi Saidpur Lines. Towards the end of the Plan period a second line between Kaptai Hydro-Power Station and the Chittagong City will be taken up so that it is completed during the 3rd plan period.

In the 230 KV system, in addition to the completion of the Tongi Ishurdi line including the Jamuna River-Crossing, an extension from Ghorasal to Ashuganj is included in this Plan. This extension will enable despatch of power to west zone from Ashuganj Power Station in case of failure or limitation of the Ghorasal Station. To meet the increasing demand of west zone, the interconnector capacity will be augmented from 132 KV to 230 KV by 1986-87. However, the work will start during the plan period for which provision has been made.

CSO: 4220

PROBLEMS OF POPULATION GROWTH ANALYZED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jun 80 pp 5, 6

[Article by N. U. Farook]

[Text] Unless judicious plans and programmes are worked out and faithfully executed the population problem we are facing will continue to remain there. Whatever developmental programmes are undertaken will be neutralized under the growing pressure of population. If development and population policy are not balanced the growing pressure of population will outweigh the developmental programmes. Without effective population programme to be carried out with all seriousness we cannot make a breakthrough in our bid to develop the society qualitatively. This calls for intensifying the family planning campaign along with developmental programmes. Any developmental plan undertaken will be countervailing if it does not take into consideration the population problem with all seriousness. Expansion of new human settlement is forcing Bangladesh to lose about 28 per cent of her cultivable land in every decade worsening the chronic food problem. All our economic efforts for development are eaten up by the ever-increasing population. In the coming decade if the rate of population growth is not brought down within a reasonable limit we will not have sufficient arable land to cultivate to meet our increasing demands for food grains industries, energy, etc. It goes without saying that a country like ours with a given geographical limit can support only a limited population. The economic welfare and economic development of a country is profoundly affected by the size and composition of the population. The magnitude of the problem can be understood when one considers the pressure of such a big and growing population on so small an area--55 thousand square miles. The optimum population Bangladesh can sustain is said to be only 20 million. Therefore, the economic growth of a country will remain dependent upon the population in proportion to its natural resources.

United Kingdom, population wise, is growing at a rate of 0.6 per cent and her population will be double in 117 years, while those of Belgium, Luxemburg and East Germany at the rate of 0.1 percent doubling in 700 years. China having a population of one thousand million is a country

possessing a quarter of mankind. Though China seems to be an overpopulated country the fact is that the density of population there is much less compared with the density of population per square mile of other densely populated countries specially Bangladesh. The density of population of China is 270 per square mile whereas that of Bangladesh is above 1600. China is now keen to keep her population within a reasonable size. The concept of one child family in China is gaining momentum. Officially the slogan is, 'One is fine, two is more than adequate.'

The fast growing rate of population has resulted in the fact that a significant number of our total population is below the adult age group. In Bangladesh nearly half of the total population is under 15 years of age. Thus 48 percent of the population belong under the adult age group and are not connected with any productive sector. They are dependent on their parents. Another serious consequence of the social structure of Bangladesh is that it does not encourage female participation in the economic activities outside home. One of the main problems of socio-economic development of our country has resulted from its unbalanced age structure and the excess of dependent population. Female activity rate as recorded in 1961 census was 11 per cent, one of the lowest in the world. In Bangladesh, the density of population demonstrates tremendous pressure on the existing land and resources.

Land Ratio: Total land available is 352.8 lakh acres, of which 20.52 lakh acres consist of revenue land. Out of this land area, total land under cultivation in 1974 was 20,560,000 acres. About 5.4 million acres are covered with forest and about 6.5 million acres remain uncultivated. Each year due to population increase our arable land area diminishes. Total shrinkage of cultivated land in the last 13 years comes to 730073 acres.

Food Production

We produce yearly one crore 17 lakh tones of foodgrains. This falls short of total requirement of foodgrains to 28 lakh tons annually. The 1974-75 survey shows that there had been a 2 percent increase in food production in the country. This is a healthy sign no doubt but as compared to our need of fast growing population this is not sufficient. With 3 percent yearly increase in population and the consequent shrinkage in arable land this foodgrain deficit will go on increasing unless effective measures are taken to check the population growth. A dynamic and revolutionary measures has become overdue to solve the population problem of our country.

True that people are taking the family planning methods in an increasing manner but to reach the target of population growth rate it is necessary to prevent 1.5 million births by the end of 1980. The following measures if taken with sincerity and with all seriousness may be of great help in controlling our fast growing population.

- (1) Mass Education--Due to lack of education and superstition people are ignorant of the necessity of population control. There should be an introduction of compulsory mass education at all levels with special stress on female education and family planning which can do away with all the bars that stand in the way of population control.
- (2) There should be a compulsory subject on family planning and population control starting from class nine to the highest level of education stressing importance of practical field work.
- (3) Promotion of the employees working for family planning and population control should be based purely on their successes in the field work and not merely on the basis of seniority.
- (4) Participation of Student: Since a large number of our educated people comprise the students they can play a vital role in population control. The success of population control demands a high degree of motivational work. During vacations the students can play a dynamic role in motivating the people in their respective areas. During vacations students coming from villages to cities and towns go back to their respective villages. They can be inspired to play a role in motivational work of the uneducated couples who are ignorant of the necessity of control of births by giving them some sorts of remuneration on their individual success.
- (5) The government should give stress on late marriage by raising the age of marriage for the male to 25 years and for the female 20 years and extend facilities to those taking sterilization and ligation.
- (6) Stopping polygamy through legislation.
- (7) Marriage licence system should be introduced through legislation. All bridegroom must obtain licences before getting married.
- (8) Restriction of government benefit after 2 children per couple.
- (9) Restriction on issuing ration cards after 2 issues per couple.
- (10) Full pay pension for issueless couples.
- (11) The present campaign of population planning should further be stepped up with necessary inputs available to them on their asking.
- (12) Creation of increasing recreational facilities outside home for the husbands may be one of the effective measures for population control.

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST LEADER'S WIFE--Mrs Anima Singh, Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Samity and wife of Mr Moni Singh, Chief of the Communist Party of Bangladesh died of her wounds at the Holy Family Hospital at 8-05 a.m. on Tuesday. She was 54. Mrs Anima Singh was critically injured in a road accident on June 29. On receipt of the news, a large number of leaders belonging to various political parties peasant leaders and social workers visited the hospital and the CPB office to pay their respect to the departed soul. The leaders included Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, President, Bangladesh National Awami Party (M), Syed Altaf Hussain, President, Jatiya Ekota Party, Mr Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Awami League (Malek) leaders Mr Abdul Malek Ukil, Mr Abdur Razzak, Mrs Sajeda Chowdhury, Mrs Motia Chowdhury, and Mr Sudhansu Sekhar Halder, MP, Mr Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Chowdhury Harun-arRashid, President, NAP (Harun) and Mr Balder Akbar Khan. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Jul 80 p 1]

KAZI AKRAM RELEASED--Former President of Bangladesh Chhaitra Union Kazi Akram Hossain was released from Dacca Central Jail on Tuesday according to a Press release of the BCU. [Text] [Dacca BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Jul 80 p 12]

AWAMI LEAGUE EXPELLEE--The central committee of the Bangladesh Krishak League peasants wing of the Awami League (Malek) in its meeting on Wednesday expelled Mr Badal Rashid member of the central committee of the organisation on charges of violation of party discipline. The meeting was presided over by Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed MP president of the organisation says a Press release. [Text] [Dacca THE OBSERVER in English 3 Jul 80 p 12]

CSO: 4220

NEW HOPE SEEN FOR TIBETAN REFUGEES IN BHUTAN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 April 80 p 2

[Article by A. J. Singh: "Tibetan Refugees Have New Hope"]

[Text]

FOUR thousand Tibetan refugees in Bhutan, the most picturesque Himalayan landlocked country, can now breathe freely once more. Originally threatened with deportation to their native land, they have now been assured that no such thing would happen.

According to Dawa Tsering, Bhutan's Foreign Minister, no Tibetan refugee would be expelled. There are several factors that have influenced this decision. Bhutan as a member of the United Nations Organisation could hardly be expected to go against the International Convention which forbids the deportation of refugees to their homeland. Secondly, both Tibet and Bhutan share a common religion — i.e., Tibetan-brand Mahayana Buddhism. Lastly, the volte face in Thimpu's stand could probably be traced to the visit of the 22-year-old Bhutanese monarch Jigme Singye Wangchuk, to New Delhi in February this year, and his subsequent meeting with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Even when Mrs Indira Gandhi was out of power (from March 1977 to January 1980) she had kept a close watch on the plight of Tibetan refugees in Bhutan. As soon as she came back to power (in January 1980), she hinted that she intended to take

a positive step towards its solution.

A delegation of the Tibetan Youth Congress led by its vice-president Lobsang Chobel met Mrs Gandhi at her residence on 9 January, 1980. The latter assured the members of the delegation that she would look into the problem. The Prime Minister kept her promise. She reversed the Janata Government's decision banning Tibetan refugees from Bhutan from entering India. Later, in March '80, External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao stated in the Rajya Sabha that India would consider the question of rehabilitating Tibetan refugees who wanted to leave Bhutan.

These developments sent a wave of relief through the eight refugee camps in Bhutan. The trouble for Tibetan refugees began in 1974 when the maternal aunt and Lhendup Dorji, uncle of the present Bhutanese king, exiled by the late king, were admitted into the kingdom. They had quarrelled with the late king (father of the present king) Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, over the Tibetan refugees who were occupying a favoured position during his rule. In fact, late king Jigme Dorji had kept a pretty Tibetan mistress Yangki, who had given birth to some children. Consequently the Queen, the mother

of the present king Jigme Singye who was ignored, nursed a grudge against the young mistress.

In 1974 after the sudden death of king Jigme Dorji, Yangki, fled Bhutan and took refuge in India, fearing that she and her children would be persecuted. Immediately thereafter (June, '74) the Royal authorities in Thimpu announced that they had uncovered a plot in which Yangki, in collaboration with some Tibetans, had hatched a plot to enthrone her son and assassinate the present king Jigme Singye before coronation. Twenty-eight Tibetans, including some known opponents of Lhendup Dorji, were arrested. Though six years have passed these persons are still languishing in jail and held without trial.

Indian lawyers who wanted to visit Bhutan and fight the cases of detained refugees were not allowed by Thimpu. This alleged uncovering of the plot naturally triggered off an anti-Tibetan campaign in its wake leading to the social boycott and harassment of the refugees. Their movements inside Bhutan were restricted, their business activities toned down and at some places the refugees were even forced to sell their stocks. This tension was heightened in

1978 by the refugees' refusal to take up Bhutanese citizenship despite repeated insistence by the Bhutanese Government to do so.

As a result of this refusal the Bhutanese Government imposed further restrictions on the refugees. Movements of the Tibetans outside their settlements were forbidden; their activities restricted; Tibetan children studying in Darjeeling and Kalimpong were either prevented from coming home or from going back to their schools after the holidays were over and so on.

As the restrictions on the refugees grew harsher, the World Press focussed on the issue, especially in view of June 1979 resolution of the Royal Bhutanese Assembly (RBA) which exhorted the Bhutanese Government to deport those refugees to China-run Tibet who refuse to accept Bhutanese citizenship. It was alleged in RBA's resolution that Tibetans were trying to "create a Tibet on Bhutan's soil."

At a press conference in New Delhi (before Mrs Gandhi's return to power) the Bhutanese King declared that the Tibetans have created "an internal threat" for Bhutan and that "Bhutan cannot afford to take a risk and create a Tibetan state within Bhutan." But the Bhutanese Government's desire to evict the Tibetan refugees did not stem from political reasons.

For centuries the Tibetans among others, had dominated Himalayan trade and apparently this had evoked considerable antipathy among the local population against the refugees.

The second reason stems from religious grounds of the four distinct sects of Mahayana Buddhism practised by Tibetans and Bhutanese. While the refugees belong to the Gelugpa sect, with Dalai Lama as the supreme head, the Bhutanese belong to the Karguipa sect, for whom the Dalai Lama is on an equal footing with the king of Bhutan.

As things stand, the Bhutanese Government has now reversed its earlier stand to deport the refugees to Chinese occupied Tibet ostensibly due to pressure exerted on them by the Amnesty International and the United Nations Commission for Refugees. But in truth it is Mrs Gandhi's return which has clinched the issue in favour of the refugees. Reason: without massive financial and material aid from India, the biggest aid-giver to the kingdom, the Bhutanese economy would be crippled.

What is the future of the refugees? Majority of them in Bhutan want to shift to India, and are waiting for Government of India's decision to let them cross over. "There is more calm there (Bhutan) now," says the 44-year-old Dalai-Lama. "But actually we have no contact. The Bhutanese Government does not allow my people to go there. But they have given up the plans to send out (to Tibet) the Tibetan refugees."

But reports from Thimpu are disturbing the refugees deprived of their means of livelihood are alleged to be starving. And there are no signs that financial or material aid is on its way to save them. Keeping this in view the Dalai Lama says, "I am hoping that India will allow refugees unwanted in Bhutan to come here." [as published]

Inquiries in New Delhi reveal that the matter of Tibetan refugees in Bhutan is engaging Government of India's attention. "We are taking a humanitarian view of the problem," says a cautious Indian official. "We may allow them (refugees in Bhutan) here so long as the number is manageable."

The Janata Government had refused the entry of Tibetan refugees from Bhutan on the ground that it already had some out of the nearly 80,000 Tibetan refugees yet to settle, so there could be no question of taking any more. But Mrs Gandhi has reversed the stand and kept her word with the refugees.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

HLAING, IRRAWADDY FLOODS--Between 24 August and 1 September, steadily rising tide waters from the Hlaing River worsened by recent continuous rainfall have flooded over 16,000 acres of cultivated paddyfields and 262 acres of nursery paddy plantations in 43 village tracts of Taikkyi township, Rangoon division. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall in Tavoy since 22 August has inundated 3,196 acres out of the total cultivated acreage of 3,932 in three village tracts. [Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Sep 80 BK] As a result of high tides in the Hlaing River, over 20,000 acres of cultivated farms and 309 acres of nursery plantations in 43 village tracts of Tantabin township have been flooded. The bursting of Hlezeik-Tabawchaung dike has also resulted in further inundation of over 10,000 acres of cultivated farms in 12 village tracts. [Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Sep 80 BK] In Monyo township, the erosion of the banks of the Irrawaddy River have prompted the complete evacuation and dismantlement of houses in three wards out of the five wards in the town. The dismantlement of houses are also continuing in the two remaining wards. The incident has left 1,663 families--8,328 people--homeless. [Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Sep 80 BK]

CSO: 4211

COMMERCE MINISTER OPENS INDO-POLISH ROUNDTABLE

New Delhi — JOT in English 3 Jul 80 p 10

[Text]

FOR import of sophisticated machinery and technology, India has to look "more and more" to socialist countries, Union Minister of Commerce, Steel and Mines Pranab Mukherjee said on Wednesday.

Inaugurating a round table meet on Indo-Polish cooperation on the occasion of Polish National Liberation Day, Mr Mukherjee said, "In view of the increasing tendency of protectionism in the developed market economies and rapid growth realised in the socialist countries, particularly Poland, India naturally has to look more and more to these countries for import of sophisticated machinery and technology and outlets for its non-traditional exports."

During the recent years with the sharp hike in petrol and oil prices and massive energy crisis, India had been facing increasingly large external trade deficits and shortages of foreign exchange required for its development. In such a situation, Poland, with its wide industrial base, can considerably help India in further strengthening and diversifying the industrial structure and promoting quick economic growth, Mr Mukherjee observed.

He said that there was considerable scope for further expansion

in developing cooperation between the two countries particularly in the fields of power, mining, shipbuilding and non-ferrous metal.

Former Foreign Secretary T N Kaul said that in the new world situation, India should go for bilateral trade relations with countries like Poland instead of going to the big powers. Referring to the role played by India and Poland in the international commission on Vietnam, Mr Kaul said that strengthening of relations with countries like Poland was essential not only from economic point of view but also from that of strengthening forces of peace against the forces of war.

Polish Ambassador Jan Czaba emphasised that Indian Ocean must be preserved as a zone of peace, while tracing the international issues on which both Poland and India had identical views.

He expressed satisfaction over the Indo-Polish relations not only in economic field but also in various other areas of life and hoped such relations would grow over the years.

Among other participants at the meet were Justice V R Krishna Iyer, Minister of State for Agriculture Swaminathan and CPI(M) member of Parliament Harkishen Singh Surjeet.

MINISTER TELLS LOK SABHA ON AIR FORCE PLAN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 78 p 7

[Excerpt]

NEW DELHI, July 2.—The Indian Air Force will phase out the Gnat fighter as it had been rendered obsolete in today's defence environment, the Minister of State for Defence, Mr C. P. N. Singh, told Mr M. P. Saveed, Mr Gulam Rasool Kochak and Mr Madhav Rao Scindia in the Lok Sabha today, report PTI and UNI.

Mr Singh said the Gnat had proved itself an effective machine during earlier wars between India and Pakistan. The effectiveness of an aircraft was dependent on the operational environment in which it functioned. While the Gnat was highly effective in the 60s and early 70s, it was obsolete in today's air defence environment. He said an alternative had been found for replacing the fighter aircraft.

The Minister replied in the negative when asked if the decision to phase out the Gnat had been taken to see whether the Jaguars recently acquired were a sufficient replacement.

Defence Spending: Mr Singh told Mr Chitta Basu that India had been spending much less on defence than China and Pakistan in terms of percentage of gross national product. He said that according to data published, China spent 10% of

its GNP on defence in 1976, 1977 and 1978. In these three years, Pakistan spent 55%, 63% and 57% of its GNP on defence. In comparison, India spent only 3.1% in 1976, 3.4% in 1977 and 3.2% in 1978.

MIG Aircraft: Mr Singh told Mr Vasant Kumar Pandit that MIG aircraft were being manufactured in India in various phases under co-laboration arrangements, with the indigenous content in the final phase being 70% of the total cost of the manufacture of the aircraft. He said the manufacture of other defence aircraft was also being planned.

Missile School: The Government had accepted the necessity for developing Gopalpur-on-Sea in Orissa for the setting up of an air defence and guided missile school and connected units at a cost of Rs 1982 crores, Mr Singh said in a written reply to Mr K. Pradhan.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY CIRCULATES 1979-1980 REPORT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jul 80 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, July 3.--India would endeavour to carry further the dialogue with Pakistan for an all-round improvement in bilateral relations as provided for in the Simla agreement, reports PTI.

This has been stated in the report of the External Affairs Ministry for 1979-80 circulated among MP's.

The report recalls that the talks were initiated in January when the Foreign Secretary, Mr R. D. Sathé, visited Islamabad.

"India is not insensitive to Pakistan's concern over the developments in the region," it says.

However, the report says that the moves by China, the USA and others to help Pakistan acquire more arms run the risk of converting the subcontinent into a theatre of great Power confrontation as well as threatening the security of India.

The report expresses India's view, "based on the unfortunate experiences of the past," that induction of arms into Pakistan has the potential of hampering the process of normalization.

On the international situation, the report says that it is characterized by a steady growth of military strength of powerful States, beyond their borders, in pursuit of their interests.

It points to attempts at acquisition of military and naval bases and facilities, and mentions the increased great Power naval presence, particularly of the USA in the Indian Ocean.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN SENEGAL FERTILIZER PLANT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jul 80 p 2

(Text)

INDIA will have a 50 million dollar equity participation in the 300 million dollar joint project being set up in Senegal to produce phosphatic fertilizers, reports UNI.

Ambassador of Senegal Babacar Diop today described this as the biggest project being undertaken in his country. He said a company which would carry out this joint venture held a meeting at its board of directors recently in New Delhi and decided to collaborate with India.

He said a 30-member delegation of Indian experts will shortly visit Senegal to study the prospects of assisting his country in setting up small and medium scale industries.

Dr Diop said Senegal considered India as the only alternative in the Third World, which could assist them in the industrial, scientific and agricultural fields without attaching any strings.

He said the economies of India

and other developing countries were complementary and added there was vast scope for India to co-operate with West African countries.

Dr Diop said Senegal had vast reserves of rock phosphates and India had agreed to take back part of the production of the fertilizers to be produced in the new factory. He said there were also prospects of India buying phosphoric acid from Senegal.

Dr Diop was having an informal chat with newsmen on the eve of his departure for Senegal on completion of his six-year term in India.

He explained that the Embassy in Delhi was closed down as part of an economy drive. He said by some time there would be an office here headed by a charge d'affaires and he hoped that in about a year the embassy would be reopened in view of the 'very close and friendly relations' with India.

SIXTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN DRAFT TO BE READY BY DECEMBER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 80 pp 1, 7

(Text)

THE policy frame of the new Sixth Five-Year Plan, which is under preparation now, will be ready by next month.

A meeting of the National Development Council is also being called towards the end of August to approve the draft policy frame. Once this is done, the Planning Commission sources believe that it could go ahead in full speed to complete the work on the Sixth Plan draft so that it could be placed before the NDC for the final approval by the end of December next.

Yojana Bhavan sources are confident that before the next Union Budget comes by Feb-

ruary end, the final Plan document would be ready. The Prime Minister is believed to have specially told her colleagues in Yojana Bhavan to avert delays in Plan preparation at any cost.

In fact, the preparations for the draft is already going on. First drafts of some chapters are being prepared by the concerned sections. Various expert panels set up for the purpose are working on them in full swing.

In any case, the sources re-assure that there was no reason to fear that the usually time-consuming technical work would delay the formulation of the Plan because the work in this

regard has been going on for the past two months.

CONSENSUS

The members of the Commission have already begun a dialogue with various sections of the people with a view to evolving a "national consensus" on the Plan objectives. While some talks have been held with various chambers of commerce, those with the trade unions, political representatives of the political parties and economists and specialists will begin soon.

While the plan frame wants to give a balanced priority to all major sectors like agriculture heavy industry and small industry, unlike Mr Charan Singh they do not see any contradiction between these sectors. The policy frame will show their functions were mutually complementary, Commission member Mohammed Fazal said.

The policy frame will also lay ample stress on an all-out move to educate the people on controlling population. The task will be pursued in an imaginative way.

Another important feature of the new Plan will be the provision for advanced planning for the first few years of the next Plan. Accordingly, by the fourth year of the Sixth Plan many of the important schemes of the Seventh plan would be made ready. This will help avert last-minute haste in the preparation of the Plan schemes.

Also, Yojana Bhavan is working on a "shelf-project concept" according to which a large number of important development schemes in various sectors would be made ready for implementation at any time. Such schemes will be selected after due care and would be ready several years ahead.

CPI(M) ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVIETS. PRC REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 80 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The establishment of a party-to-party relationship between the CPI(M) and the Chinese Communist Party is likely. This would mean that China would recognize the CPI(M) as the truly representative Communist Party in India.

The current "thaw" in the relationship between the two parties has come after a 14-year break. From 1966, when the Chinese launched their Cultural Revolution, the contact between the two parties had snapped. The Chinese had supported the Naxalites and had de-

scribed the CPI(M) as "neo-revisionist."

In recent months, exchanges between the two parties have begun again. However, CPI(M) leaders maintain that they still have a number of reservations about the Chinese Communist Party. For instance, the CPI(M) does not agree with the Chinese contention that the Soviet Union is a "social imperialist" country. Nor does it approve of the Chinese action in supporting the Chilean and Pakistani regimes. The CPI(M)

had also criticized the Chinese invasion of Vietnam. Despite these differences, the CPI(M) leaders do not see why fraternal relations between the two parties should not exist. However, they feel that the initiative for this should come from the Chinese party since it had been the first to break off the relationship.

The CPI(M), on the contrary, had always recognized the Chinese Communist Party as truly representative of the Chinese working class even at a time when it had criticized the "ultra Left" mistakes committed by the Chinese party. Among these "mistakes" was the elevation of Lin Biao as heir-apparent to Mao Zedong and the denunciation of Liu Shaoqi. The CPI(M) leaders now say that the Chinese themselves admit these mistakes.

It is difficult to say to what extent the new relationship with China would affect the CPI(M)'s stance of "equidistance" from the two Communist giants. In the last plenum, the CPI(M) had described the Soviet Communist Party as "revisionist" and the Chinese as "Left adventurist." It still refers to the Soviet party as "revisionist," but has stopped calling the Chinese "Left adventurists." In the CPI(M)'s view, "Left adventurism" was a hallmark of Maoist China and not of the present regime. The party supports the gradual modernization initiated by the present regime which is completely different from the Maoist concept of a "great leap forward."

A close relationship between the CPI(M) and the Chinese party is bound to affect the former's ties with the CPI, which recently improved for the first time since the undivided Communist party split in 1964.

CPI LEADER: NO CHANGE IN POLICY AFTER SANJAY'S DEATH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Jul 80 p 3

[Text] The CPI leader, Mr Biswanath Mukherjee, said in Calcutta on Thursday that there would be no change in his party's attitude towards the Congress (I) following Sanjay Gandhi's death. He said the CPI made no distinction between Sanjay and his mother. In fact, this had been made clear by Mrs Gandhi herself when she had pointed out that an attack on her son was an attack on her. She made the remark after the CPI had submitted a memorandum against Sanjay Gandhi to the Prime Minister during the Emergency.

Mr Mukherjee said there had been no change in the CPI's policy adopted at the Bhatinda Congress which stated that the party would unite Left and democratic forces so that they could replace the Government of the bourgeoisie led by Mrs Gandhi. He said that on certain specific points, the CPI might support Mrs Gandhi just as the CPI(M) had been doing on the Assam issue. But the party's "overall policy" was to oppose her. This was the difference between the official party line and the policy of the followers of Mr Dange who wanted the party to continue to support Mrs Gandhi as it had done between 1971 and 1977.

He said the CPI would welcome a pro-Soviet stance in foreign affairs by Mrs Gandhi because it would strengthen the anti-imperialist camp. But in internal affairs, the party was sure that she would follow the capitalist path which in the last 30 years had not solved any problem in the country. Mr Mukherjee said that no Indian Government had been able to do without Soviet assistance. Mr Morarji Desai who had made anti-Russian remarks when in the Opposition, had no qualms in visiting the Soviet Union after becoming Prime Minister.

The CPI leader felt that the CPI(M) would be making a mistake if it moved closer to the Chinese Communist Party. He alleged that China and the USA were behind the so-called "liberation movements" in north-east India. An underground Communist Party had been set up in Nagaland whose cadres had been trained in China. The movement in Manipur was being led by Mr Bisheswar Singh who had spent more than a year in China.

CPM CENTRAL COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jul 80 pp 1, 7

[Text] The central committee of the CPI-M has welcomed the initiative taken by the Karmal Government for a political solution.

In a communique issued after a four-days session, it has appreciated that even while the US is doing everything to intensify hostile activities against Afghanistan the Soviet Union has made a partial withdrawal of its troops and armour.

This positive step should facilitate a political solution, the central committee said. It expressed the hope that the countries of the region would engage themselves in serious and sincere efforts towards this goal and frustrate imperialist designs in South West Asia.

The central committee denounced the aggression on Angola by the white racist regime of South Africa. It extended its full solidarity and support to Angola and to SWAPO in their struggle against South Africa.

It considered the recent development in India-China relations. Vice Premier Deng Ziaoping's proposals for improving relations and settling the border problem and the Government of India's positive response to them. The central committee welcomed these developments and hoped that they would soon lead to the normalisation of relations between the two countries.

Asked about the role of the Chinese in the North-East CPI-M leader Har-kishan Singh Surjeet told PATRIOT that there was no denying the Chinese interference in the past, but of late, according to their own formal statements, they had stopped meddling in the internal affairs of our country, especially in the North-East. This was also pointed out to the party's Central Committee member Saroj Mukherjee when he recently visited Peking with his wife at the invitation of PEKING REVIEW.

Mr Mukherjee, who was also present at the press conference, said that the issue of party-to-party relations between the Chinese Communist Party

and the CPI-M was still under discussion. Mr Surjeet said the Chinese Communists had expressed keenness to establish such relations, and the CPI-M position was "We have not severed relations, and hence it is for you to restore the relationship." He said many other Communist Parties had likewise wanted to forge such relations, and these included Communist Parties of Yugoslavia, Italy and Japan. The CPI-M felt even if those parties had relations with the CPI that would not come in the way of relationship with the CPI-M.

CSO: 4220

CPI-M OFFICIAL TELLS PRESS OF PARTY MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jul 80 pp 1, 7

[Text] CPI-M polit-bureau member Harkishan Singh Surjeet told newsmen on Tuesday that his party was appealing to all political parties to rally together for defending the unity and integrity of the country now in jeopardy due to the developments in the North-East region in general and Assam and Tripura in particular.

Mr Surjeet, who was releasing a press communique on the decisions of the just concluded four-day meeting of the CPI-M Central Committee in the Capital, said that a political solution of the Assam problem could be possible by winning over the democratic sections of the Assamese populace if a national consensus was reached in consultation with all political parties.

"The issue is one of national integration. It should not be utilised for satisfying narrow partisan interests," Mr Surjeet underlined.

The central committee is convinced that the movement in Assam has become secessionist, meant to dismember the country and directed against the religious minorities and their Indian citizenship rights, he informed.

The central committee has pointed out that the RSS, which swears by the unity of India and a unitary State, is lending support to a movement to dismember the country.

At the same time the US and other imperialists, who have long been conspiring against the country, have been giving all encouragement and material help to the secessionist movement.

The struggle to protect the minorities, their Indian citizenship rights and to defeat the secessionists has to be waged on a country-wide basis, Mr Surjeet said.

The central committee devoted a full day to developments in Assam and Tripura during its four-day session in New Delhi. In Tripura, the extremists among the tribals in the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity panicky at their diminishing influence resorted to a carnage.

On the other hand, the chauvinistic Amra Bengalee-Anand Marg have been inciting passions of the Bengali population. There are also enough facts to show that foreign imperialist agencies are very much active in creating instability there, the central committee has pointed out.

Mr Surjeet made it clear the dismissal of the Left Front Government as is sought by some elements claiming to belong to the Congress-I would only serve to aggravate the problem. But he said that the committee welcomed the Centre's stand of tackling the situation in co-operation with the Tripura Government.

The committee also welcomed the prompt steps taken by the Left Front Government to give relief to the uprooted and afflicted people through assistance from the Centre. It called upon people throughout the country to rush relief in the form of money and material to Tripura.

Mr Surjeet said several tribal cadres of the CPI-M had laid down their lives in trying to save the Bengalees, and hence it was a canard to say that the CPI-M had instigated the tribals to create trouble.

Mr Surjeet said the CPI-M welcomed the dialogue carried on by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to find a political solution to the Assam problem. The negotiations were continuing. He hoped that they would be successful.

Mr Surjeet said that the central committee reviewed the results of the recent Assembly elections. It was of the opinion that the Congress-I victory was based on the support of a small percentage of the electorate. Only about half the electorate exercised their franchise. This was a mark of protest against the non-implementation of the electoral pledges made by the Congress-I during the Lok Sabha election campaign.

The central committee apprehended onslaughts against the people in the coming months as the economic crisis was getting deeper. The budget presented by the Finance Minister would only serve to increase the burdens on the common people.

The committee points out that resistance to this drive was the foremost task before the left and democratic forces.

Mr Surjeet said the central committee did not discuss the post-Sanjay political situation. It was not yet time to assess it. But, he added, that according to the CPI-M the drive towards authoritarianism was not the work of a single individual but the result of the economic and political policies of the ruling party.

Narrow Base

The central committee was of the opinion that the "very narrow base of victory of the ruling party will lead it to resort to authoritarian methods."

If laid special stress on "unity of Left parties, their initiative in heading the mass struggles and winning the active support and participation of all democrats in all parties." [as published]

The struggles outside, it felt, should be linked with activities inside Parliament and State Legislatures. "The Left parties must coordinate their activities in these bodies, and on every issue on which other Opposition parties are likely to join us, the combined Opposition must raise its voice against the Government's attacks on democratic rights, on the power of the Centre, against attempts to subvert non-Congress-I Governments."

CSO: 4220

SHEIKH ABDULLAH COMPARES SITUATION NOW TO 1953

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jul 80 p 6

[Text] Srinagar, July 4.

The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdullah, said yesterday that a situation similar to 1953, when he was removed from the State Premiership, was being sought to be created once again to suit "certain interested elements."

These elements, he told a joint meeting of the State Cabinet and the district development board at the border town of Kupwara, 94 km from here, "neither had the good of the people at heart nor were capable of upholding the identity of the State and the rights of the people."

In the course of his speech, the Sheikh also cautioned the people against the "machinations" of such elements and called for vigilance to preserve "our freedom," an official release said.

Charge Against Cong-I

Sheikh Abdullah did not name any political party but obviously his reference was to the State Congress(I), whose leaders have intensified their activities here following Mrs Gandhi's return to power.

The Sheikh had accused them of making attempts to organise defections in his ruling National Conference after a member of the State Assembly resigned from the National Conference and joined the Congress(I) despite the enforcement of the anti-dection law in the state. [as published]

The Sheikh said yesterday "We resisted Pakistani overtures as well as aggression against our State in 1947 because the attitude of the leadership of Pakistan did not take into account the dignity and honour of the people of Jammu and Kashmir State.

"They wanted to grab our territory by force, which we resisted with all our might and by offering sacrifices."

He added, "In 1953 also, such an eventuality arose and an attempt was made to erode our rights, resulting in disaster for my democratically elected Government and sufferings to the people."

"A similar situation was sought to be created now again to suit certain interested elements."

Sheikh Abdullah said, power had never been an attraction for him. "On the otherhand, we were requested to take on the responsibility of Government following an accord with the Centre in February 1975 which we steadfastly adhere to."

Therefore, he said, the criticism levelled by Opposition leaders, including those of the Congress(I) against them that "we are hankering after power" was absolutely incorrect and politically motivated.

He said, "Had it been so, we would have followed the course of our associates after 1953 by sacrificing ideals for personal gain."

The Chief Minister said the interests of the people and their rights and their destiny had remained dear to him throughout his life. "I have never bargained or bartered away their rights."

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have to preserve and uphold the State's individuality." This task, he said, "needs men of character and integrity."

He added that during his 50 years of political life he had always sought a respectful, prosperous place for his people. How could he deviate from that path now?

CSO: 4220

NEW POLICY FOR NEWSPRINT ALLOCATION ANNOUNCED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 80 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 2.—The information and broadcasting Minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, today announced in the Lok Sabha a new newsprint allocation policy for 1980-81, allowing a higher initial allotment to small and medium newspapers to enable them to plan their expansion in a systematic manner, report UNI and PTI.

The basic newsprint entitlement to every newspaper for 1980-81 will be equal to the consumption level attained in the previous calendar year. On the basic entitlement, an addition of up to 5% on account of increased circulation will be available to big newspapers, an initial increase of 10% will be available to medium newspapers, and 15% to small ones.

Another highlight of the new policy, Mr Sathe said, would be a substantial reduction of the price difference between the newsprint available for big newspapers and that available for small and medium newspapers. The Government had decided to make the high-sea sales price equal to the buffer stock sales price from ports as would be equitable. Measures to remove the burden of sales tax on newsprint were under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and State Governments,

he said.

Important features of the new policy are: A longer validity period (six months) to small newspapers for lifting their stocks in instalments; Opening of more regional STC depôts, which again will benefit largely small and medium newspapers; Import of more newsprint in sheets by the STC to cater to the special requirements of small and medium newspapers. The STC will also examine the feasibility of converting newsprint reels into sheets and supplying the same to small newspapers; Introduction of the calendar year as a basis for determining basic entitlements—again to help small and medium newspapers.

Reiterating the Government's national commitment to the freedom of the Press, Mr Sathe said it was arranging for sufficient imports of newsprint to meet the legitimate and reasonable demands of all categories of newspapers. "However, the existing imbalance between newsprint consumption of small newspapers (only 8%), medium newspapers (only 23%) and big newspapers (69%) has made us incorporate certain new features in the policy which will encourage the growth of small and medium newspapers."

CSO: 4220

INDIA

ARTICLE EXAMINES WEST BENGAL ENERGY PROBLEMS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Jun 80 p 13

[Text] The continued power crisis in West Bengal during the last decade has shattered the hopes of an industrial breakthrough. No large industry has come up in this State after the demise of Dr B. C. Roy, while the existing ones, especially in the small-scale sector, are falling sick one by one.

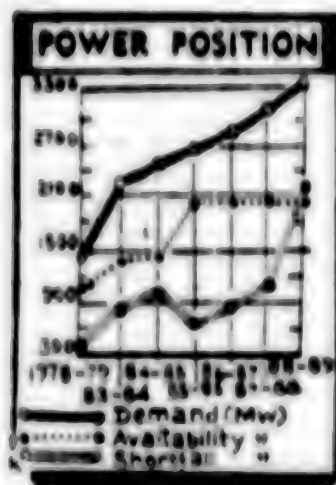
In January 1978, the Commerce & Industries Minister, Mr Kanailal Bhattacharya, told the Assembly that the power problem would be solved within two months. The Finance Minister, Mr Ashoke Mitra, made a Press statement about two months ago that the power crisis would be over within two weeks. Even the Chief Minister, who holds the power portfolio, made a statement two weeks back that the position will improve soon. But the crisis has deepened recently.

Indeed the credibility of the present Government has declined due to its inability to tackle the power problem. [As published]

The per capita consumption of electricity is an index of the industrial progress of a State. Since independence till the mid-sixties, the per capita consumption in West Bengal was the highest in India--about 60 kwh. This perhaps explains the industrial supremacy of the State during the period. Today, the per capita consumption of electricity in West Bengal is lower than the national average. Whereas the all-India per capita consumption was about 178 kwh in 1977-78, the corresponding figure for West Bengal is about 160 kwh.

It has been estimated that the production loss due to power crisis is about Rs 1,000 crores a year. Further, the stalling of industries has generated acute unemployment among the educated youth. Unless the Left Front Government believes in a chaotic revolution, it must make a bid to solve this problem with all sincerity.

At present four agencies are supplying power to West Bengal. (1) Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, (2) Damodar Valley Corporation, (3) West Bengal State Electricity Board and (4) Durgapur Projects. Of



these, the WBSEB is the principal agency for the generation and distribution of electricity throughout the State, and also for the electrification of the villages.

It has, therefore, a great social responsibility apart from being a commercial organization. The Board has its headquarters in Calcutta, with a chain of 13 offices spread all over the city. [As published] This has some organizational problem, which may be solved once its own building is ready in Salt Lake. [As published] It employs about 35,000 people and runs offices in the various district headquarters, sub-divisional towns and even in villages.

It is an autonomous organization with a board of directors nominated by the State Government. The board has five full-time members, and two part-time members nominated by the Government. The WBSEB has, therefore, all the advantages and disadvantages of a huge monolithic organization with dual control by the Government and the board.

According to the board a number of power plants are being installed to cope with the rising demand. The capacities of these plants along with their locations and expected date of completion are tabulated below:

Location	Capacity (MW)	Expected Date of Completion (WBSEB)
Santalidih	120	Oct. 1980
Bandel	210	Oct. 1980
Kolaghat	630	1982-83
Kolaghat	630	1984-85
North Bengal	240	1984-85
Siliguri (Gas Turbine)	20	1984-85
Total	1850	1984-85

The superthermal power plant in Farakka, which is being built by the National Thermal Power Corporation, a Government of India Undertaking, is expected to supply about 100 MW to West Bengal by about 1985. Thus the total additional power to be available in West Bengal is estimated at 1,850 MW by the end of 1990-91. The accompanying graph gives the demand, availability, and the shortfall figures during the eighties. It may be mentioned here that we have taken the demand figures as given by the WBSEB, while the availability and the shortfall figures have been calculated from our own estimates.

it is evident from the graph that the power problem will deteriorate in the eighties. It is true that to deal with the problem the WBSEB is toying with the idea of setting up a superthermal power station of 2,000 MW capacity in Murahidabad. Whether the WBSEB has either the technology or organizational ability of managing such a gigantic power station is a different question. Even if the idea matures, none can forecast when such additional capacity will be available.

We shall now discuss some of the important reasons for the crisis in the State. (1) Political--In early seventies politicians decided to recruit some 20,000 people in WBSEB for the purpose of rural electrification. Of this, 10,000 were actually recruited posing serious administrative difficulties to the board. The recruitment of another 10,000 was stalled in the absence of appropriate planning for the rural electrification scheme.

(2) Trade Unionism--It is understandable that the various trade union organizations will find a pleasant haunting ground in the WBSEB for furthering their own interests. Though there are only two recognized unions, namely the INTUC and the CITU there are as many as 14 unrecognized unions in the WBSEB.

The Left-Front leaders, particularly the Chief Minister, claim that they have sufficient hold over the working class. Admitting that they have such influence, one wonders why they have miserably failed to wield such influence with the power plant workers. This goes to suggest that either the workers of the power plants are indisciplined or there are some deeper reasons for unhealthy trade union activities in the WBSEB.

(4) Poor equipment and maintenance--It is true that some of the plants are basically defective and that due to overworking, the maintenance schedule cannot be followed.

(5) Unauthorized tapping--It is estimated that unauthorized tapping is as large as 17%, but the question remains why such connexions are not cut off. [As published]

(6) [As published] Delay in the execution of projects by the WBSEB--While in other States a thermal station requires four to five years for completion, the WBSEB takes eight to 10 years.

Lastly, some organizational changes in the WBSEB are suggested for its normal functioning. There is a common feeling that the WBSEB is fast acquiring the image of Calcutta Corporation in the matters of administrative efficiency, and corruption. This should be immediately rectified if the board has to work as a commercial organization. It must be given full responsibility and authority with little or no interference from the Writers Building. The board must be capable of curbing labour and other indiscipline.

PRC INVITES INDIAN GROUPS TO EXHIBIT IN CANTON

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jul 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 3.

China has invited Indian industrial groups to hold their own exhibitions at the Canton Fair site either before or after the fair.

The Canton Fair authorities assured a four-member delegation of the India-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCCI) that they would extend all possible help to make such mini-exhibitions a success.

This was stated at a press conference by Mr Santosh Chatterjee, President of ICCCI and leader of the delegation which has visited China for 10 days from June 4.

The Canton Fair authorities welcomed larger delegations from India to visit the fair.

The delegation which went in response to an invitation from the China Council for Promotion of International Trade, visited Beijing, Shanghai and Canton. In all these places the members found "tremendous goodwill and friendship" for India, Mr Chatterjee said.

Turnkey Project by Birlas

The Birla group of industries is to set up in China a turnkey project for the manufacture of rayon with 100-per cent Indian technology, reports UNI.

A tentative agreement to this effect was worked out by a representative of the Birla Industries with the China National Technical Import Corporation during the Indian delegation's visit.

The project may be worth Rs. 100 crores.

Another agreement signed during the visit was for the supply of 20,000 tonnes barytes worth Rs. 70 lakhs by China. Mr B. D. Aggarwal representing

mica, bar-tes and other minerals and petro-chemical industries, signed the agreement with the China National Metals and Minerals Import and Export Corporation.

The report of the delegation's visit said a tender for the supply of 10,000 tonnes of calcined petroleum coke by China to India was being processed.

China has also asked for samples of first and second grade Indian tobacco, as also of third and fourth grade, for immediate purchase.--PTI and UNI.

CSO: 4220

HOUSE TOLD IRAN CANNOT TAKE KUDREMUKH ORE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 1: The government admitted in the Rajya Sabha today that Iran would not be able to take the iron-ore concentrate to be produced at the Kudremukh project.

The minister for steel and mines, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, said during question hour India had really been landed into great difficulties. The particular type of iron-ore concentrate would not find a ready market.

Mr Mukherjee said the possibility of finding alternative buyers could be explored only after the matter had been settled with Iran. This was obligatory under the Indo-Iranian Kudremukh project agreement.

Replying to questions by Mr B. Ibrahim, Mr Ladli Mohan Nigam and others, Mr Mukherjee said he had discussed the matter with Iran's industry and commerce ministers during their visits to India. An Indian team would visit Iran shortly to hold further discussions.

Output & Capacity

In the first year the Kudremukh project would produce three million tonnes of iron-ore concentrate. The full capacity was 7.5 million tonnes.

Mr Mukherjee hoped that Iran would take some of it while attempts would be made to find other buyers.

In his written reply, Mr Mukherjee said there was only a general discussion with the Iranian trade delegation on issues relating to the Kudremukh project.

The leader of the delegation expressed his desire for a satisfactory solution of outstanding issues during the forthcoming visit of an Indian team to Teheran.

The project was expected to be commissioned in August, 1980. Its total cost sanctioned by the government was Rs 647.33 crores.

RIGID TRAINING OF HIMALAYAN JAWANS OBSERVED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jul 60 p 2

[Text]

**SOMEWHERE ALONG THE
INDO-TIBETAN BORDER.** June
30 (PTI)

THE iridescent rays of a mid-summer morning sun had just splashed over verdurous plateau, unfolding a panoramic view of the extensive Himalayan snow ranges. Suddenly the serene Himalayan peace was shattered by the sound of rapid fire of shooting and the cordite smoke of rocket launchers.

Through the drifting smoke, a party of visiting newsmen saw from a vantage point a platoon of Indian Army, rending the air with its battle cry, "attack and capture an enemy location" atop the terraced plateau, after stiff resistance.

This was a part of the daily grueling training schedule of the jawans guarding vast Himalayan expanses.

Duty heights, blinding fog, snow and stony wastes—with temperature dropping to 30 degrees Centigrade—might well be a page from Arctic tales. But the jawans in forward pickets live and work under similar conditions.

The newsmen who were exposed to the various facets of jawans' life from handling various types of explosives and mines and weapons to the construction of an earthen rope found that the biggest problem at the inhospitable and unimproved terrain was that of loneliness which

could cause depression at times.

But there is not a dull moment for the army even at the highest forward pickets because of well-planned course of training, which is exacting as well as continuous.

Besides, to avoid boredom, healthy recreational activities are encouraged. Playgrounds are improvised and sports competition are encouraged to keep the jawans physically fit as also to develop healthy rivalry and pride of the unit he belongs.

FORMIDABLE TASK

It is indeed a formidable task to maintain troops at the high altitude, which is bereft of adequate communications. Supplies to the forward pickets, which remain snowbound almost round the year, are carried on mule backs or by porters. The human ingenuity is put at test.

Heavy snowfall renders certain areas inaccessible except for helicopters. A jawan remains at the forward picket for six to eight weeks before he is replaced. During winter, the mail is delivered at the forward pickets once a week through helicopters. This keeps the jawans abreast of the events at home and in the country.

Adequate food in keeping with the temperature is provided to them. They are ensured a minimum of 4,000 calories in the ration given to them.

Physiologically, pulmonary oedema is the major high altitude

hazard facing the jawans. Jawans and mules are, therefore, systematically acclimatised before they move beyond 10,000 feet. This acclimatisation routine is followed on the pattern of mountaineers.

The troops are acclimatised before they can go up to a height of 16,000 ft. However, acclimatisation is not permanent. Jawans, who leave high altitude areas for three to four weeks, have to under go partial acclimatisation again.

It is usual for the jawans working at 14,000 ft. above sea level to develop symptoms like headache, disinclination to work, insomnia and fatigue. These are minimised by lectures on mental adjustment, provision for adequate comforts and proper management.

Elaborate medical aid is available at the farthestmost pickets. Serious cases are evacuated to lower altitudes by fastest available means.

TEMPERATURE EFFECTS

The sub-zero temperature affects the physical and mechanical properties of metals and changes their strength, elasticity and brittleness. There is, thus, a constant struggle to maintain the equipment, weapons and vehicles to the peak of efficiency.

While the humans are charmed by their dogged devotion to duty, elements cannot be so tamed. They have their own whims and fancies. One has to keep the machine at its shining best to prevent its behaviour in an erratic manner, when the clouds threaten.

Even the long-standing familiarity with the weapon and equipment is at a discount at a high altitude. At a high altitude, the same equipment behaves like a jealous and domineering mistress demanding your attention every minute.

Briefing newsmen after a week-long trip to the border on the logistic and other problems facing jawans, Sector Commander B S Khandpur said the stretch called Indo-Tibetan border was one of the most inhospitable terrain. About 300 km stretch from Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh—trijunction of Indo-Tibet-Nepal border—was dotted with 14 passes with a height ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 ft.

Come snow or blizzard he said, the jawans continue their patrolling.

"Whatever be the difficulties, the jawans are trimmed to intensive defence preparation and the nation could rest assured that the country's borders were well defended", he said.

ARTICLE TRACES GROWTH OF TROUBLES IN TRIPURA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Jul 80 pp 1, 7

[Article by Manash Ghosh, "Politicians Fanned Tripura Flames"]

[Text]

TO understand the genesis of the violent flare-up in Tripura, one must study the various socio-economic and political forces at play in the State over the last 40 years. For herein lie most of the sources of tension which snowballed over the years and eventually led to a violent explosion.

The focal point of tension has been the conflicting interests of tribals and non-tribals, by exploiting which political parties of all shades have benefited themselves and harmed others. Their objective has always been to perpetuate and capitalize on this conflict, not to remove it, as that would reduce their scope for manoeuvring.

The situation, a prominent person of Agartala said, was analogous to that of an unscrupulous doctor who diagnoses symptoms correctly, but does not cure his patients fully, so that he can continue to deceive them. "The political parties here are terribly shortsighted. They are thriving on tension for the time being but, in the process, losing their credibility which, one day, will bring their own ruin. If the parties and their leaders were fair to both communities and sincere in solving their problems, Tripura today would have been different."

Tripura's misfortune, according to some, has been that it has no history of a political tradition. The quality of leaders and administrators who have wielded power since independence has been so poor that the State has been burdened with more problems than it can tackle. Although even the bitter critics of Mr Nripen Chakravarty admire his honesty and integrity and some of his leadership qualities, his inability to rise above narrow party interests is singled out as his most glaring failure which has also in a way contributed to the present tragedy.

The revolt by Reangs in south Tripura, one of the 19 tribal clans in the State, in 1942-43 against the Tripura Raj, is said to be the forerunner of the State's political movements. Though not inspired by mass consciousness, the revolt was essentially against the Raj's feudalism and exploitation.

Only three years before this, the Congress had been founded in Tripura and Marxist philosophy had started making inroads into the tribal-inhabited hill Tipperah from neighbouring Comilla. It was not until 1945 that the philosophy had started influencing the educated tribal youths who formed the Gana Mukti Parishad, the precursor of the Communist Party of Tripura. The Parishad's leader then was the young Dasarath Deb, now the senior-most tribal Marxist leader and second to Mr Chakravarty in the Cabinet. He pioneered the left movement in the State. The Chief Minister describes him "as the only bridge between the tribals and non-tribals" in the present communal system.

The Parishad had sought to organize under its banner tribals who, it said, were neglected by the Maharaja. It was the first to rouse on a wide scale an anti-Maharaja sentiment among tribals whose faith in and respect for the Maharaja were infinite. But the Parishad's character composition and activities have been a major controversy within the Communist Party. Many Communists have reservations about the policies and programmes initially pursued by the Parishad which, in later years, were to contribute to the structural weaknesses of the Communist Party in the State. The actions and speeches of some of its leaders created confusion in its movements. This is still a copy point with some veteran Communist leaders of Tripura.

THE SEEDS

The "people's armed struggle" of 1949-52 led by the Parishad against the Centre, which the CPI(M) now calls "barons" in the eyes of some contemporaries, sowed the first seeds of extremism and separatism in Tripura. The Parishad, by resorting to an armed struggle aimed at liberating some pockets like Khowai and Kamaipur had adopted strategies and methods which the TUIS extremists have recently sought to emulate.

The men of the disbanded Tripura Rifles had been incited by the Parishad to take up arms against the Union Government. A secret organization named "Sankrak" (a tribal word meaning a man with Herculean strength) had been formed and its job was to strike terror and panic. "It's almost poetic justice that 30 years later when the Marxists are in power, tribal dissenters from the security forces are fighting for the TUIS to destabilize them. After about two decades, Sankrak has reappeared and is 're-entrenching the very people who had once organized it. The TUIS extremists have set up their own secret organizations and such units may multiply, a former officer of the Tripura Rifles said.

It was through the educated tribal youths that Marxist philosophy had spread in Tripura. Even now, the Tribals provide the largest base for the CPI(M). In the early days, they had so closely identified themselves with the undivided Communist party that many had left studies to do party work. The dedication of the older generation of tribals to the Communist movement can be gauged from the fact that six of them—including two gram pradhans, have died resisting the communists in the recent riots. "We, the older people, believe in the principle of one party and one wife. Nothing is going to change most of us," said a prominent 84-year tribal CPI(M) leader.

The Congress started almost at the same time as the Parishad, was in a moribund state until the partition. It was only when the Bengali refugees started pouring in that the party was revived. Bengali refugees became the sheet anchor of the Congress, just as the tribals were of the Communist party. The preference of each community for either of the two parties was clear from the very beginning. Mr. Sachindralal Singh a Rajput who was the first Congress Chief Minister from 1943 to 1971 used to say openly that partition was a boon to the Congress. "We welcome the Bengalis as they support the Congress," he told public meetings.

FRAUD ON TRIBALS

The speedy granting of Indian citizenship and rehabilitation dues to the refugees, legitimizing ownership of their land—encouraged

in many cases through fraudulent means from tribals—in the 1962 settlement operations and absorption of educated Bengalis in Government jobs, endeared the Congress to the refugees. It was this "partisan love" for Bengalis which alienated the Congress completely from the tribals. Even to this day, the Congress to a tribal, is a "Bengali party."

In was the total disregard of tribal interests and rights during the 14-year Congress rule till 1977 which was largely instrumental in bringing about a sectarian solidarity among the younger tribals, many of whose fathers like that of Mr. Shivamacharan Tripura, General Secretary of TUIS and of Mr. Vilay Rankhal, the extremist TUIS leader, are veteran Communist and Congress leaders and workers.

The irony was that though the TUIS was born as a non-political, social and cultural organization for the uplift of the tribals, most of the 11 point demands raised at the function in June 1967 for launching the organization were political. Prominent tribal CPI(M) leaders like Mr. Dinesh Deb and Mr. Subhanva Deb Barma, the present Speaker of the Tripura Assembly, were present. Among the important demands were stoppage of the flow of refugees into Tripura and allocation of a scheduled area for the tribals who would elect their own council.

The main consideration of the CPI(M) for associating itself with a tribal cultural body was to spread its base among the tribals through non-political organizations. But from the beginning, the younger elements in the TUIS wanted to have no truck with either the Congress or the CPI(M) who, they said, were out to exploit the tribals.

DISPOSSESSED

The massive flow of refugees had already reduced them to a minority in hill Tipperah. Rehabilitation of the refugees in the once tribal-dominated areas had broken their tribal compactness and character. The tribals' privation was on the rise as more and more land slipped out of their control. Denial of the reserved quota of Government jobs for them was also a sore point. The Government's unhelpful attitude in developing the Kokborok script, the only major one among a few non-descript Tripura tribal scripts and officially recognized as the second official language in Tripura, was a major source of resentment. The TUIS from 1969 onwards, despite being a cultural organization began openly dabbling in politics and fanning anti-Bengali hatred.

The TUIS sought to rouse tribal sentiments by comparing the defunct and misconceived rehabilita-

tion schemes for tribals to those for the relatively better ones executed for Bengali refugees. The fasting and demonstration by tribal leaders and workers of the CPI(M) in Azartaa, demanding better rehabilitation facilities for the refugees, was projected by the Samity as exploitation of tribals in the interest of non-tribals.

Despite its professed anti-Bengali and sectarian stance, the State Congress leaders found TUIS an ideal instrument to contain the CPI(M)'s influence among the tribals. They helped the Samity with money and material in organizing meetings and cultural shows. Later, during the Emergency, the then Congress Chief Minister, Mr. Sukhdev Sengupta, went even farther in building up the TUIS as a counterpoint to the CPI(M).

The TUIS leaders, who had already started nurturing political ambitions felt that tribals, instead of being a tool in the hands of the CPI(M) or the Congress, should have their own party. In 1973, the TUIS was transformed into a tribal political party with the slogan, "We don't accept any party's domination whether it be Congress or the CPI(M)". The same year, it contested the Assembly election.

The events of the following years were to provide the TUIS with just the right issues with which it could exploit politically and sway the highly emotional tribals. The uprooting of several thousand tribals from the rich Rama Sharma valley of Amarpur for building the Dumbur hydel project, taking away of the tribals' exclusive rights on a vast reserved forest area set apart by the Maharaja under separate enactments, reduction of the number of tribal reserve Assembly seats and the change from reserved Scheduled Tribe assembly seats to Scheduled Caste seats provided the TUIS with an opportunity to uphold the cause of the tribals.

It gave the call for tribal solidarity. With fanatic zeal, it went about telling tribals to denude themselves from the Bengali-orientated Brahminical culture. Except for four of the 19 tribal clans, the rest are all devout Hindus whose customs and religious beliefs bear strong Bengali influence. The cultural and social intercourse between the tribals and Bengalis was opposed and young TUIS activists went round the villages to strictly enforce it.

Tribals were asked to boycott pujas organized by the Bengalis and to disperse with the services of Bengali priests for religious ceremonies. They were told not to go in for matrimonial relations with Bengalis which was becoming more common. The hatred, as fanned to such an extent that

tribals even refused to offer drinking water to thirsty non-tribals in the interior villages.

To raise the barrier further, the Samity switched over from Bengali to Roman for the Kokborok script on the plea of phonetic convenience and better expression. Special schools were set up in the villages by the Samity to teach Kokborok. While English was compulsorily taught as a second language, teaching of Bengali was scrupulously avoided in the plea of inadequate facilities. For higher studies, tribal students were sent to missionary colleges in Shillong rather than Calcutta where many of the older generation had studied.

Tagore's long association with Tripura was despised by the TUIS as a clever means to dominate the tribals with Bengali culture. The Tripura Raj family was disliked because of its close ties with Tagore. Its contribution to Bengali language and its total identification with Bengali culture. The Maharaja's total disregard of the tribal dialects and the tribal identity was resented by the TUIS leaders.

CONGRESS BLUNDER

It was the legislation taking away the special rights of tribals in reserved forests which became the rallying point for all classes of tribals who increasingly lent support to the TUIS. This "political blunder" by the Congress Government removed the traditional barriers between the educated upper class urban tribals, including the royal family, and the rural illiterate tribals.

The TUIS organized on July 10, 1971, a rally in Agartala which was attended by thousands of tribals, including members of the royal household. This was unprecedented, since the Tripura Raj family had so far steered clear of tribal politics. The meeting, which is described as "historic" even by Tripura's Marxist Chief Minister, was a turning point in the TUIS' political existence, as for the first time, it was able to place before the vast tribal gathering some of their long-standing and sentimental demands clearly: an auto-

nous tribal district council, restoration of land fraudulently taken away from the tribals, abrogation of the second amendment which took away the special rights of tribals in reserved forests and introduction of Kokborok as a medium of instruction for tribals from primary classes. The most significant slogan raised at the meeting was: "We are neither Communists nor Congress, we are tribals. First and last, and that is our identity".

From then onwards the TUIS never looked back. Its emotional appeal helped it to make gradual inroads into the CPI(M) tribal stronghold which greatly perturbed the Marxists. The CPI(M)'s efforts to give its tribal base from the hands of the TUIS resulted in open confrontation. The present Maharaja, it is alleged, lent her support to the TUIS from behind the scene.

Just before the December 1977 Assembly election, leaders and supporters of the TUIS had started their election campaign. Their mobilization of tribal voters was so effective that it won not only two reserved tribal seats but snatched away two general seats, Samtazar and Charlam, by polling almost all the 32% and 35% of tribal votes in those two constituencies. The Congress debacle in the Parliamentary election followed by a series of defections and short-lived coalition Ministries in Tripura had created a political vacuum in the State which helped the TUIS to gain considerable national ground and also consolidate its position.

To the CPI(M), being ground to a parochial force was a source of worry. When it came to power in 1979, it tried its best to meet some of the genuine grievances of the tribals. Despite strong reservations of a section of the party, it agreed to create a tribal autonomous district, whose council was empowered to levy taxes and have trading licences besides other powers, mainly to take the wind out of the TUIS' sail. To snuff the TUIS politically, it did not take up the food-for-work pro-

gramme in those areas which had returned TUIS gaon pradhans or members of panchayats.

When the TUIS gained in strength and the Congress became weak and ineffective after its split into four parties and groups, the Bengali refugee settlers got panicky. The prospect of the formation of a tribal district council added to their fear of becoming landless and rootless for a second time. Although there were safeguards for non-tribals living in the autonomous council area, the Bengali refugee settlers knew from their own experience in Pakistan that these could hardly ensure their safety or protect their interest. It was in this perspective that the Army Razakars emerged as a local political force in 1973 "for protecting the interest of Bengali peasantry and traders".

How rapidly it won the rural Bengali support is borne out by the Parliamentary election results of 1980. In 1977 the Peasants bloc, which later was to form the nucleus for the Amra Bengali, polled only 18% of the votes cast. In the 1980 election the Amra Bengali candidate for the tribal reserved seat of east Tripura polled the second highest vote, about 103,000 against 194,000 secured by the successful CPI(M) candidate.

The happenings in Tripura have left the Government machinery shattered. The events are bound to accentuate the differences between the tribals and non-tribals within the CPI(M). A tragic human problem has arisen for the urban upper class tribals and those belonging to the royal household who, for all practical purposes, are more Bengalis than the Bengalis themselves. The Bengalis, following the riot, have made them the target of their attack as they identify them as tribals.

The rural tribals do not accept them as their own because of their total Bengali orientation. "We are not acceptable to either of the communities. Where we are we don't know", said Mr Purnendu Kumar Deb Burman, 66, an uncle of the present Maharaja and a former secretary of the Tripura State Assembly.

KUDREMUKH PROBLEMS MAY BETOKEN EMBARGO SUCCESS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 80 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, July 2.

The massive Kudremukh iron-ore project (investment Rs 573 crores) is like a person all dressed and nowhere to go. The project is ready in fact, ahead of schedule.

But no one knows who will take Kudremukh ore. The project would have gone on stream in the third week of this month, instead of its targeted completion in August. The main question today is: "should we press the button or not?"

Everything is ready at Kudremukh--its autogenous mill, mining equipment, conveyor pipeline, roads and tunnels. A computer system, which will control the entire operation from determining the quality of the ore to his movement down the pipeline to Mangalore port, has been completed. Various items of equipment have been run on trial and found to be satisfactory. Even a premonsoon ore stock has been built up. All that is now required is the word "go."

Iran, but for whose interest and initial financial assistance Kudremukh would not have been a reality, is unable to keep its commitment to lift Kudremukh ore. This has landed India in a frantic search for buyers elsewhere.

Much government-to-government-level talk has taken place with various countries. Not much is heard of the interest shown by Indonesia some time ago in purchasing Kudremukh ore. A Rumanian team visited the project site ten days ago. A team from Bulgaria is currently in Delhi for talks with the government of India.

Unless a concrete proposal materialises for the sale of ore within a month, the project may well prove to be unproductive.

The establishment of a pelletisation plant at Kudremukh is one of the ways of making the ore salable to countries other than Iran. According to

Kudremukh sources, the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company can build a pelletisation plant to a large extent out of its own savings. The project has been cleared in principle by the Union government and a token budgetary provision has been made.

Kudremukh, in the Arali Gangamula range of the Western Ghats, has now a thinner population than a few months ago. Most of the people engaged in civil construction have left after completing the work. At one time, the work force used to range between 20,000 and 30,000.

It is a capital intensive project. With all its systems stabilised, only 25 people will be needed for operational work. This is not to belittle the employment potential to be created by the project in terms of ancillary industries and trade.

Iran was committed to give \$555 million for it, but it has paid only \$255 million, the balance having come to Kudremukh from the coffers of the Union government.

According to its agreement, Iran was to lift three million tonnes of Kudremukh ore in the first year, going up to 7.5 million tonnes in the third year.

This Iran will not be able to do because its proposed steel plants, for which Kudremukh ore was meant, are yet to take off the ground. Indeed, Iran has abandoned one of the proposed plants and is thinking of shifting the location of another.

American and German experts, who were expected to build Iran's steel plants, are nowhere in sight. This has given rise to the question whether the Western embargo against Iran under the U.S. leadership has succeeded.

CSO: 4220

NORTHEAST FORUM SAYS 1951 NATIONAL REGISTER INVALID

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 80 p 5

[Excerpt] Karimganj, July 2: The national register of citizens, 1951, on the basis of which the All-Assam Students' Union and the All-Assam Gana Sangrma Parishad want to determine the nationality of the Bengali-speaking people in Assam is not a valid document in the eyes of the law, according to a forum of young intellectuals and patriots in northeast India. [as published]

Revealing this in its latest publication, the forum contends that "No, they are not foreigners," quoting a judgment of the chief justice, Mr Justice P. K. Goswami, of the Assam and Nagaland high court in an appeal suit in which Mr Bhambhasa was the appellant and the Union of India and others were the defendants. The judgment was delivered in 1967.

According to the publication this document is not a public document within the meaning of section 74 of the Indian evidence act and the NRC is neither a register having sanctity in the eyes of the law nor has anything national about it.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Goswami had observed that it only showed that the national register of citizens was a contemporaneous register prepared by the officers appointed under the provisions of the census act in the course of census operations. Section 15 of the census act would make such records of census neither open to inspection nor admissible in evidence.

According to this section, "no entry in any such book, register, record or schedule shall be admissible as evidence in any civil proceedings whatsoever or in any criminal proceedings other than a prosecution under this act or any other law for any act or commissions which constitute an offence under this act."

CSO: 4220

ACCORD REACHED WITH POLAND ON JHARIA COALFIELDS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 80 p 5

[Text] Dhanbad, July 2.

An agreement has been reached between a high-level Polish delegation led by the vice-minister for mining, Dr M. Gpanoswski, and Coal India Ltd on assistance and cooperation at all levels in the development of the Jharis coalfields.

The team inspected the Sudamdih and Moonidih projects. The methods of work at Sudamdih mine will be revamped. The existing transport system will be replaced. All outdated equipment and spare parts will be changed.

The Polish minister agreed to send a team, comprising experts and miners, to stay at the mine for about six months and restructure the system for achieving the original target of 6,000 tonnes of coal a day.

Minister Satisfied

Mr Gpanoswski was satisfied with the progress made at the Moonidih project which will be commissioned as scheduled by 1981. The first longwall face in the Indian coalmining industry introduced at this project with Polish collaboration is working satisfactorily. The second one will now be installed.

The Polish minister suggested a separate centralised mine construction division for the CIL as has been done in his country. This division will undertake sinking of deep coalmining shafts and pits all over the country.

He also reviewed the progress of the reconstruction scheme under which the entire Jharis coalfield will be remodelled with 21 underground and nine opencast blocks. The final touches to the projects will now be given by Coal India with the help of its subsidiary, the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, and Polish experts.

Poland will also extend help for the Roorkee and Bhaigoara deep-shaft sinking projects where the entire concept of the system will be changed.

Poland will also help in the development of new coal washeries, which, on being commissioned, will produce 27 million tonnes of washed coal.

VISITING BULGARIAN DISCUSSES AREAS OF COOPERATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jul 80 pp 1, 10

[Text] Bulgaria on Tuesday offered to supply one million tonnes of fertilisers to India over a five year period reports PTI.

The offer was made by Mr Philipov secretary Communist Party of Bulgaria when he called on Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh prior to the final meeting of the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Economic Commission. The fertilisers will be supplied at the rate of two lakh tonnes every year.

Mr Philipov and Rao Birendra Singh discussed a few long-term projects which the two countries could pursue jointly and measures for speedy implementation of the decisions taken by the joint commission.

The Bulgarian leader said that his country had decided to diversify its imports and give priority to imports from India than those from West Europe.

His delegation he said has given the list of items Bulgaria was interested in importing from India. He suggested that the two countries may set up a joint plant for meat production and meat processing.

He also offered Bulgarian cooperation in developing the fishing industry of India and proposed that the two nations may join together to set up a fertiliser plant.

Rao Birendra Singh welcomed the offer of fertilisers and said that during the discussions between the delegations to the joint commission new areas of cooperation have been identified.

He said that India would give serious consideration to the proposals.

The Minister pointed out that India has vast marine resources and there were great possibilities of Indo-Bulgarian cooperation in the field. Equally great scope existed in collaboration in agriculture particularly in animal husbandry and vegetable and food processing.

The Minister listed the steps taken for goat and sheep breeding and said that India was implementing a special programme and raising meat animals.

As cow slaughter was prohibited in the country India would have its meat industry on goat sheep fish and buffaloes.

Mr Philipov also indicated his country was keen on offering substantial quantities of soda ash to India on a long term basis.

Mr Philipov who met Petroleum Minister Veerendra Patil in the morning said his country was also interested in extending bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

He hoped his visit would lead to identification of specific areas of cooperation.

Bulgaria was already planning to import chemicals from India he added.

Mr Patil welcoming Bulgaria's offer said India would be interested in importing some quantities of soda ash which was currently in short supply.

India was also keen on importing antibiotics especially tetracycline, he added.

Mr Philipov had a meeting with Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Commerce in which the two sides agreed to expand their trade manifold during the next few years keeping in view the complementarities existing between the economies of the two countries.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

DRILLING IN RAJASTHAN--New Delhi, July 3 (PTI): The government is understood to have given permission to Oil India to explore oil in Rajasthan. Oil India has already submitted a project report to the ministry of petroleum envisaging deep drilling operations in western Rajasthan near Jaisalmer. The project is to cost Rs 75 crores, spread over five years beginning 1980-81. The assignment in Rajasthan includes latest seismic survey techniques, including aeromagnetic surveys. Spudding in the first well--to an approximate depth of 6,000 metres--is expected to begin in 1982. This would be followed by five more wells. Oil India had taken up offshore oil exploration work in the Mahanadi basin last January. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jul 80 p 7]

JUTE DUTY LIFTED--New Delhi, July 3 (UNI):--The government today exempted jute specialties from export duty. A press note issued today said: "Jute specialties, namely, jute decorative fabrics, is a value-added item. As a measure of incentive to the export of jute specialties, the Central government has decided to exempt the same from the whole of the export duty leviable thereon. Certification is being issued in a gazette extraordinary for implementing the above decision." [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jul 80 p 9]

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST FRONT--New Delhi, July 3 (PTI): Supporters of Mr H. N. Bahuguna in the Lok Sabha, who had resigned with him from Congress-I, have formed a separate group called the Democratic Socialist Front. The chief whip of the group, Mr Harikesh Bahadur, announced here today that the group consists of Mr Neel Lohithadasan Nadar (leader), Mr Harish Gangawar (deputy leader) Mr Harikesh Bahaduri (chief whip), Mr Ram Lal Tahi, Mr Asfaq Hussain, Mr T. S. Negi and Mr Viswanath Sharma. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jul 80 p 19]

AWARD TO SCIENTIST--Bombay, July 2:--Prof B. C. Halder, director of the Institute of Science here, has been awarded a grant of \$5,000 by the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, for a research project. The project is called the neutron activation analysis study of the dietary intake of some trace elements by children in the 8-15 age group from a rural area in Maharashtra. This is part of the coordinated programme on comparative methods for the study of trace elements in human nutrition, sponsored by the agency on a global basis. The other collaborators in the project are Prof. (Mrs) Z. R. Turel and Dr A. D. Swant, of the same institute. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jul 80 p 18]

ENCEPHALITIS DEATHS--Raipur, July 1: The district authorities have confirmed that 17 children died in the government hospital due to encephalitis last month. Unofficial reports said encephalitis had claimed the lives of about 30 children in the hospital and outside. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jul 80 p 7]

EASTERN CORPS COMMANDER--Lieutenant-General A. S. Vaidya has been appointed Corps Commander of a corps in the Eastern sector and will assume office on Friday, according to a release issued by the Press Information Bureau, Calcutta, on Wednesday. He will replace Lieutenant-General A. M. Sethna. The release said that Lieutenant-General Vaidya had been awarded Maha Vir Chakra for his service during the wars against Pakistan in 1965 and 1971. He was a recipient of the Ati Vaisist Seva Medal. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 80 p 3]

MEGHALAYA ROADS PLANNED--The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Mr B. B. Lyngdoh, told reporters at Calcutta Airport on Tuesday that construction of a road along the Meghalaya-Bangladesh border would be taken up soon. A number of feeder roads connecting the main road would also be constructed. This would help prevent infiltration from Bangladesh into Meghalaya. During a brief stopover at Calcutta Airport on his way from Delhi to Shillong, Mr Lyngdoh said that the Centre had agreed to construct the roads. Meghalaya has a 420-km-long border with Bangladesh. Adequate communications cannot be maintained because there are few roads. Certain areas near the border are almost inaccessible. People from Mymensingh and Sylhet infiltrated from Bangladesh into Meghalaya. Once the roads were constructed such infiltration would be stopped, he added. The Chief Minister said that about 9,000 people had illegally entered Meghalaya from Bangladesh during the past seven years. About 7,000 had been deported by the Government so far, he added. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jul 80 p 3]

MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY SPEAKER--Bombay, July 2: Mr Sharad Shankar Dighe of the Congress(I) was unanimously elected speaker of the Maharashtra legislative assembly today amidst applause from all members. But as soon as Mr A. R. Antulay went to congratulate the new speaker, Mr Datta Patil (PWF) rose on a point of order. He argued that the chief minister had no right to be the first to congratulate the speaker as 'he was not the leader of the house' because he was not a member of the assembly. The privilege belonged to the leader of the house. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 80 p 1]

VISAS TO PAKISTANI--Visas for visits to India in the first half missions in Pakistan issued over 100,000 visas for visits to India in the first half of 1980. While the Indian Embassy in Islamabad issued 22,900 visas the consulate-general in Karachi issued 84,082 visas, making a total of 106,982, according to an embassy press release. A recent study made by the embassy revealed that the number of Indian nationals who visited Pakistan in 1979 and did not return before the end of the year was small, compared to Pakistani nationals who did not return from India. But the Indian mission, the embassy said, keeping in view the humanitarian aspects had persevered in its liberal policy of granting visas. [as published] [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jul 80 p 16]

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT--The study group consisting of joint secretaries of the Ministry of Law and Home Affairs and representatives of the Ministries of Defence and the Intelligence Bureau, which reviewed the provisions of the Officials Secret Act, has submitted its report to the Government, Minister of State for Home Yogendra Makwana told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, reports UNI. Mr Makwana told Mr Jyotirmoy Basu that the report of the study group set up in 1976 to suggest measures to deal more effectively with espionage activities, had been sent to the State Governments for their comments. The Government was examining the comments. He said the Government was yet to take decision on the recommendations. It would not be in the public interest to furnish further details. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jul 80 p 5]

ARMY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF--New Delhi, July 3. Lt-Gen A. M. Sethna has been appointed Vice Chief of the Army Staff to fill the post which fell vacant because of the death of Lt-Gen. Jaswant Singh last March.--UNI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Jul 80 p 16]

CONGRESS(U) LEADER KILLED--Bombay, July 3 (UNI)--Congress(U) leader and former Maharashtra Minister of State Vyankatrao Hiray was killed instantaneously in a car accident about 30 km from Nasik this afternoon. He was 55. Mr Hiray was proceeding from Malegaon to Nasik. Four other occupants of the car sustained serious injuries. He was a cousin of State Education Minister Baliram Hiray. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jul 80 p 7]

CSO: 4220

INTERVIEW WITH FRETILIN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Alkatiri Interview

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 14, 15 Jun 80

[Two-Part Interview with Mari Alkatiri, minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of East Timor (RDTL), by Abel Emael, Etevaldo Hipolito and Joaquim Salvador, in Mozambique, date not given]

[14 Jun 80, p 5]

[Text] To learn about the current status of the Maubere people and to assess correctly the Portuguese Government's stated intent to negotiate a political solution for the problem of East Timor, NOTICIAS requested an interview with Mari Alkatiri, foreign affair minister of the RDTL. In that interview, Alkatiri analyzed Lisbon's statements of intent. He saw the appearance of so-called Maubere organizations in Portugal as part of an as yet unsystematic strategy by the former colonial power to dilute the dialog by expanding the number of parties to it. The relations of FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for East Timor Independence], the Maubere vanguard, with the major Portuguese parties were also the target of bitter comment by the RDTL foreign affairs minister.

In view of the great length of the interview, we have decided to divide it into two parts, the second of which will appear in tomorrow's edition.

Question: First of all, we would like to learn about the situation with respect to the Portuguese Government and its announced intention to negotiate a settlement of the Maubere problem with the Indonesian Government.

Answer: We have been following with great interest the declarations of intent, albeit ambiguous, of the Portuguese Government, although the latter is moving very slowly, if not absolutely at a standstill. From

the time the declarations of intent were made to date, not a single concrete step has been taken to resolve the East Timor problem.

In this particular regard, however, the Portuguese Government is apparently convinced that the center of decision regarding East Timor has passed to, or rests with, Lisbon. This is not so. Lisbon is not the center of decision regarding the fate of East Timor; it is there in East Timor, where the enemy is suffering reverses, where the enemy forces are politically, militarily and physically exhausted. Hence the center of decision continues to be and will always be in East Timor. When the Portuguese Government tries to imply that all the victories to date in East Timor are the result of Portuguese actions, we do not accept this. It is a pretty shameful piece of effrontery, because Portugal has done nothing up to now. We feel it is our duty to cooperate with the Portuguese Government in finding a political solution for East Timor, but this does not mean we are ready to transfer all responsibility for the Maubere problem to Lisbon. We have led the struggle against the Indonesian invader and we will continue to do so. We know we must demand that the Portuguese Government assume its historic responsibilities regarding the problem of East Timor. It cannot deny its responsibility for the present situation of the Maubere people, because it abandoned a colony after 460 years of colonization. It cannot, however, pretend to play a decisive role in this whole process. It cannot, because the Maubere people have a legitimate representative--FRETILIN--which must continue to be consulted regarding any decision. Otherwise nothing can be accomplished.

Consequently, our position regarding the Portuguese Government's statement of intent is as follows: We are prepared to cooperate as the only legitimate representative of the Maubere people, although we are aware that there are legal problems to resolve with Portugal, and these legal issues that we seek to and are going to resolve with Portugal are the same legal problems that the Portuguese Government will have to resolve, in an international context, with Indonesia, always bearing in mind that neither Portugal nor Indonesia can represent the people of East Timor, because they are not the legitimate representatives of East Timor. We, and we alone, are the legitimate representatives of East Timor.

Question: Doesn't the present position of the RDTL represent a retreat from the position taken by FRETILIN when it unilaterally declared independence in 1975?

Answer: We do not think it is a retreat, because we have not retreated from our declaration of independence.

Question: Is it a question of strategy to assign Portugal responsibility for, let us say, poorly coordinated decolonization?

Answer: Yes, responsibility for having abandoned [East Timor] and responsibility for seeking, at the international level, to retain its position as the administering power, without doing anything. This is the problem. Portugal is internationally recognized as a colonial power. We

declared our independence, which has already been recognized by 14 of the world's nations, few in number, but significant. Hence, whether we like it or not, Portugal must assume its historic responsibility for our people. We have not retreated; we have not said to the Portuguese Government that we withdraw our declaration of independence, and we are consistent in this position.

Question: Minister, do you think the fact that the rightwing coalition government in Portugal has for the first time made positive statements of intent regarding East Timor is in some way connected with the legal issue, that Lisbon must accept Maubere refugees, which could cause domestic problems? Is Lisbon seeking a speedy resolution of the legal problem in order to avoid the flood of refugees that might be a destabilizing factor for the coalition government.

Answer: As I said at the start, the declarations of intent are ambiguous. We have been seeking to clarify them through channels of the Portuguese Government. We have not been successful, and there is this whole attempt to turn the East Timor problem into a humanitarian issue. This is a maneuver. The problem of East Timor is not humanitarian in nature. The social problems East Timor is experiencing are the result of a political, armed attack by the Djakarta dictatorship. We cannot possibly solve the problems of the Maubere people without first solving their political problem, without helping to resolve the immediate political problem of national independence.

To attempt to bring 10,000 or 20,000 refugees into Portugal is a colonial solution; it bespeaks a colonial mentality. "We pity them, poor things, so we will take in 17,000 of them." What about the others? And why should those 17,000 want to leave East Timor? Certainly not because they could eat better in Portugal.

Question: Then is this something the Portuguese Government has undertaken to arrange as an argument to persuade [the RDTL] to accept any solution, whatever it may be?

Answer: I think not. The Portuguese Government has yet to find a definite line of action; it does not know how to begin or where to go.

Question: Where do these Maubere come from? From what part of the RDTL do they come, and how will they get to Portugal?

Answer: Through the International Red Cross. Very few have come to date, but it would appear that in return for permitting them to leave, Indonesia is demanding more from Portugal, probably recognition of the so-called integration of East Timor.

Question: Will these Maubere be coming from a zone of open conflict, then?

Answer: No, basically they come from the urban centers, mainly Dili and Baucau. I don't know if it is known that when the Indonesians demanded that these people opt for Indonesian citizenship, they refused. Over 90 percent of the people in Dili and Baucau refused Indonesian citizenship, and at that point they lost all their rights; they became foreigners in their own country.

Question: Again with respect to Portugal, how are FRETILIN's relations with the parties traditionally considered leftwing?

Answer: As for the conventional parties, starting with the Socialist Party [PS], we would say that to date neither the PS nor the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP] has taken any concrete position of support in the problem of East Timor. This year the PS actually arranged to take the issue of East Timor before the Socialist International, which began on Friday. This is a positive step on the part of the PS, and we think that, as a result, we could arrive at closer relations with the Socialists.

Regarding the PCP, the situation remains the same. The PCP refuses to recognize FRETILIN as the sole legitimate representative and vanguard of the people of East Timor; it refuses to establish formal relations with FRETILIN. We think this position is reprehensible; a communist party, particularly the Portuguese Communist Party, should be the first one in the West to support the struggle of the Maubere people, and to date it is the only one not to support the Maubere people.

Question: The only one of the West European communist parties?

Answer: Yes, it is the only communist party in Western Europe that does not support the struggle of the Maubere people and FRETILIN. This is serious; it could be very revealing. In any event, we are continuing our efforts to make the PCP leadership understand the gravity of this problem.

Question: What reasons does the PCP give?

Answer: The reasons they have offered are extremely confusing. The PCP deliberately confuses East Timor students in Lisbon who support FRETILIN with FRETILIN itself, a movement conceived and born in East Timor. We had students in Lisbon who supported FRETILIN right after 25 April--including many who are now against FRETILIN--who at some point in the Portuguese revolutionary process became closely identified with the Portuguese parties of the so-called extreme left.

What does FRETILIN in East Timor have to do with these students who support FRETILIN and have joined Portuguese parties? One thing has nothing to do with the other. Regarding this justification, first, we think it is an incorrect position; second, we would like to have relations with the PCP but not solely with the PCP. We are totally free to maintain relations with whomever we please. Therefore, it is an unacceptable justification;

moreover, it is interference in our purely internal affairs and in our relations with parties at all levels.

Question: How do you see the appearance in Lisbon of a so-called Timor-Dili liberation movement?

Answer: There have now appeared two so-called movements. One is the reconstructed UDT, and the other consists of seven refugees from Mozambique and Angola and calls itself the Movement for the Liberation and Independence of Timor-Dili. When the present Sa Carneiro government, through the parties that constitute that government, made declarations of intent regarding East Timor, it tried to put these movements on a par with FRETILIN, supporting their creation and making it possible for them to function. We absolutely cannot conceive of these organizations as legitimate representatives of the people of East Timor.

First of all, they are not representative. Second, they were conceived outside the country. Third, they are absolutely unqualified to intervene politically. We admit that there are true nationalists within these organizations, who really want to see Indonesia out of East Timor. We invite them to join FRETILIN; we have room for them. In no way will we condone maneuvers to create a lot of movements and put them on a par with FRETILIN.

Question: These individuals you say fled from Mozambique and Angola? Who leads them? How did they get where they are?

Answer: They themselves say they are supported by the Social Democratic Party. The UDT, as everyone knows, has the support of the SDS [sic] (Social Democratic Center Party) and uses its headquarters.

Regarding the path of these individuals, some of them were in the colonial army here in Mozambique. Others were in the Portuguese administration in Angola and later joined UNITA in the south and fled to Portugal. Others were in the colonial administration in East Timor and left shortly after independence. The first organization has only six members from East Timor; the others are all Portuguese.

Question: So they are not FRETILIN dissidents?

Answer: Absolutely not. They were never in FRETILIN.

Question: Then inasmuch as these movements arose in Portugal and are supported respectively by the major parties in the government coalition, could we not conclude that this is a way of seeking a solution for East Timor in which FRETILIN would no longer be the only spokesman? In other words, is it an attempt to dilute FRETILIN's bargaining power by imposing the presence of two more groups, as was attempted in Zimbabwe and is still being tried in Namibia?

Answer: Clearly, there is not the slightest doubt of it. But from the information we have, these parties of the Portuguese government coalition will be forced to admit that, without FRETILIN, nothing can be accomplished. This is in the first place. In the second place, the groups they seek to work with will not be able to do anything. To assume that FRETILIN supports these two groups because the latter support FRETILIN is utopian. There is no possibility of working with these groups. We have confidence in ourselves. We know of these maneuvers, but we are convinced that nothing will come of them.

After 5 years of armed struggle, with 200,000 dead in East Timor, we have reached a stage where retreat is impossible. The struggle of the people of East Timor is absolutely irreversible. The process is already irreversible. We are going to trust in ourselves; we are not going to rely on the Portuguese Government to resolve our problems. Let them assume their responsibilities; we rely on ourselves.

Question: Moving away from events in Portugal, it has been observed that the Maubere government has diversified its contacts in the international arena. What does this mean, and what is the status of these contacts?

Answer: We should have diversified them at the start. We did not have the time, the personnel or the technical (I do not say political) capacity. At that time we were much more concerned with mobilizing forces that we considered our natural allies. Unfortunately, we have to recognize that we were unsuccessful, and we neglected to work with forces that, once well-informed about East Timor, could come to our support.

For 4 years we spent our efforts on socialist countries, and what did we achieve? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. We prefer to continue these efforts because we are not against the socialist countries, but we are fast reaching the conclusion that we must mobilize the democratic forces throughout the world, including extragovernmental forces and forces within the capitalist countries.

Question: Have these new contacts produced any results? For example, have these contacts made themselves felt in the United Nations?

Answer: Not in the United Nations, because these contacts have only recently been initiated. This diplomatic offensive began at the end of last year and is taking shape only this year. It might begin to have some effect in the next assembly.

Question: Is FRETILIN relying on some countries to bring up the Maubere issue in the next General Assembly?

Answer: Yes. We are trying to have more than just the traditional countries: Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau. We want other countries to bring up the issue, and this is where we are channeling our efforts.

Question: How many countries now recognize East Timor, and which ones are they?

Answer: There are 14: Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Benin, Western Sahara, Guinea-Conakry, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, the DPRK, the People's Republic of China and Albania.

Question: No Latin American country has recognized the RDTL?

Answer: No.

[15 Jun 80 pp 5, 8]

[Text] In today's edition we publish the conclusion of the interview granted NOTICIAS by Mari Alkatiri, in which the foreign relations minister of the RDTL analyzes the traitorous activity of Alarico Fernandes, which he considers the major factor in the internal and organizational crises FRETILIN suffered at the end of 1978 and throughout 1979. The new prospects for Maubere resistance against the Indonesian invader and the inevitable adaptation of the struggle to the new conditions, as well as a geopolitical analysis of East Timor now and in the immediate future, were among the topics addressed by our respondent, to which we call our readers' attention.

Question: The year 1978 was a turning point in terms of world attention to East Timor. I think the treachery of former President Xavier do Amaral and Alarico Fernandes, then minister of information and security, constituted a serious setback in your struggle. Do you think these facts have a connection with a certain silence regarding the Maubere issue at present?

Answer: Undoubtedly. Particularly the betrayal of Alarico Fernandes, because although Xavier do Amaral was president, he did not bring about a major crisis. We detected the treachery as it was developing in his own behavior before he committed the act. The problem of Alarico Fernandes provoked a serious and intense crisis within FRETILIN, for several reasons. First, the treachery of Alarico Fernandes led to the death of President Nicolau Lobato, the most serious occurrence we have experienced up to now. Second, owing to the treachery of Alarico Fernandes, we lost our daily communication inside and outside the country. In the third place, because Alarico Fernandes was minister of information and national security, he had a very good knowledge of the struggle and the life in the liberated zones. When he went over to the Indonesians, he immediately began to persecute the most distinguished FRETILIN leaders. Some of them died, among them the president, but the crisis we experienced throughout almost all of 1979 is now being overcome. In terms of the armed struggle, we have had to draw back several times to reorganize our forces and adjust ranks.

For us, 1978 and 1979 were our most critical years to date--crises within the country, crises within the organization itself. From the reports we have received lately, however, we can confirm that there has been real development, that this crisis has been overcome in admirable fashion. When we learn of widespread guerrilla activity, to the point of taking enemy positions, taking villages, recovering arms and taking them up into the hills to continue the war, we can say in fact that we have survived the crisis.

When the Catholic Church itself, which opposed FRETILIN in East Timor, can declare through its bishop in Dili that FRETILIN will never be eliminated in East Timor and that the war is continuing to intensify, we can say with every certainty that the comrades inside the country have managed to overcome the crisis. We should note that, in an interview granted in Dili, the bishop acknowledged the justice of the struggle led by FRETILIN. Almost as if he were speaking in the name of FRETILIN, he declared that the organization "wanted nothing more than independence for its country."

Question: When did this interview take place?

Answer: Last March. This was a bishop who, when asked about the surrenders to the Indonesians, said they were insignificant compared with the phenomenon of the young people who are increasingly going over en masse to the FRETILIN guerrilla forces.

The struggle in East Timor has taken a new form, with guerrilla warfare covering the greatest possible area of our national territory.

The comrades are not much concerned with maintaining liberated zones, broad liberated zones, because the latter are the target of aerial bombardment, but they are struggling to injure the enemy at every point.

Question: Including the urban centers?

Answer: Yes, even the urban centers.

Question: Wasn't Dili recently attacked, or the target of sabotage operations?

Answer: The outskirts of Dili, yes. Young people have been recruited to join FRETILIN in Dili itself.

Question: While we are on the subject of the military situation in East Timor, I would like to discuss two points: the military situation in Ocussi (if there is any military action or other type of resistance there) and, second, how FRETILIN views the Che Guevara theory of surrectional "focos." Does FRETILIN think that because this theory played a part in a struggle for liberation of an island, it could be valid for the struggle of the Maubere people?

Answer: As for Ocussi, there is no armed resistance there; it would be impossible. There is, obviously, political resistance, which is consistent

with the anti-Indonesian sentiment that the Muabere people have always nourished. Hence it is not difficult to maintain political resistance in Ocussi. It is armed resistance which is impossible, since Ocussi is a small enclave with a small population. The same is true of the island of Atauro.

Regarding the theory of Che Guevara, it is difficult for me to make any pronouncement. What I can do is report what is happening in East Timor, and you can make the comparison.

At first we maintained absolute political and military control over about 80 percent of national territory. We wanted to maintain control over these broad liberated zones to provide suitable habitat for the 90 percent of the population that was on our side. After the large campaigns of encirclement and annihilation launched by the enemy in early 1978, we observed that the Indonesians' main target was the civilian population. At that point we organized a new strategy. We even encouraged mass desertions, to move the people into zones controlled by the enemy, but we kept the young and active population with us. After we had sent the people over to the areas controlled by the enemy, we began to send our own elements there. Some of them were arrested, but not all of them. We created conditions such that we might describe them as follows: we sent the water for our fish to swim in.

The guerrilla forces we have now are in a favorable position to act anywhere in our national territory, because they have the people behind them. We have over 300,000 people on our side in the zones controlled by the enemy, where our guerrillas--with difficulty, certainly--can enter and leave.

We feel that a guerrilla nucleus can survive only if it has the support of the people; it cannot survive without effective popular support.

Question: This is an interesting idea, which I was unaware of: to protect civilian populations from indiscriminate enemy attacks, but to be sure that they will remain a part of the struggle of the Maubere people.

Answer: ...

Question: Should we assume, then, that only the youngest members, only those who are in a position to take up arms, are in the mountains?

Answer: Certainly.

Question: Very small operational teams?

Answer: Yes. According to recent counts, we have about 3,000 armed men who are always in action.

Question: What is the size of the Indonesian force opposing the guerrillas of FALINTIL [Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor]?

Answer: The Indonesians maintain at least 15,000 soldiers in East Timor, but it should be noted that in February and March of this year three companies of Indonesian soldiers abandoned quarters and refused to go into combat.

Question: Where?

Answer: In Baucau. There is an antiwar sentiment among the Indonesian soldiers themselves.

Question: Where are the major Indonesian military bases in the RDTI? Where are its forces concentrated?

Answer: Mainly in the large cities, in such urban centers as Dili and Baucau [as published]. They also have small scattered posts, which are the major targets for guerrilla attacks.

Question: Is the struggle of the Maubere people having repercussions within the Indonesian Government, as it is already having in the Catholic Church?

Answer: Although it is slow, the effects have been felt, in the press and in student organizations, particularly the latter, where a real sense of conscience has been developing. One of the Indonesian student leaders was even arrested and tried because he presented a statement in which he devoted about three pages to the situation in East Timor. FRETILIN, the Indonesian forces' inability to put down the FALINTIL, the desertion of Indonesian generals, about whom we had known very little, generals who refused to go to fight in East Timor.

There is a sense of conscience. The newspapers have taken a humanitarian position in their reports on East Timor, the attacks and the brutality. Parliament has debated the question of East Timor, but there has been no organized systematic denunciation.

Question: Regarding the parliament, has any group, conservative or progressive, taken a stand?

Answer: The demonstrations have always been based on the humanitarian issue, and here there is a certain opportunism. I would refer to the game being played among Indonesian generals. Some of them want to overthrow Suharto, and they are utilizing the East Timor problem. I repeat, however, there is no systematic movement.

Question: Has FRETILIN taken advantage of these breaches in the Indonesian military apparatus?

Answer: It is hard to say whether FRETILIN can exploit these divisions, because these generals cannot or do not wish to be seen within the regime as a group that has approached or wishes to maintain relations with an organization they have labeled as communist.

At most, they might want to be seen as defenders of the "people," but never as communists. This is why I said that when they utilize the East Timor problem, they do so in ostensibly humanitarian terms. Aside from the students, none of these individuals has ever openly declared opposition to the annexation of East Timor.

Question: What about progressive organizations abroad?

Answer: Abroad, yes. There are organizations in exile which support FRETILIN.

Question: Let us talk about East Timor in its geopolitical context. The proximity of an Australian labor government at the beginning of the struggle had a visibly favorable effect, including support from the labor organizations in that country.

Now there are conservative governments in both Australia and New Zealand. The labor parties in both countries have stated that if they win the next elections they will take a more radical stand on South Africa.

Could we assume that if these parties come to power, the respective countries will modify their stand on the East Timor issue?

Answer: Both these countries supported the people of East Timor when their labor parties were in power. They supported FRETILIN formally, but not materially. In recent congresses the parties approved motions condemning the Indonesian invasion and demanding the withdrawal of Indonesian troops, supporting the struggle of the people of East Timor under FRETILIN's leadership. The Labor Party of Australia said it "took note of the declaration of independence of the RDTL." In its recent congress it also said that if it came to power it would cut off all military aid to Djakarta until Indonesia withdrew from the RDTL. This is a formal position, taken 3 months ago. New Zealand's Labor Party has not taken such a clear stand, but it has also supported South Africa.

We think that when these parties come to power, both in Australia and New Zealand, they will at least allow freedom of movement for FRETILIN members, something which the present governments do not authorize.

Question: In that event, could we see a transfer of the center of gravity on the foreign front?

Answer: I would not say that, because we could never create the working conditions there at all the levels we require. But there is a certain type of work that could be conducted in Australia and from Australia. We do not believe there will be other, more radical changes. They might stop voting against us in the United Nations and turn to abstaining or even voting in our favor.

Biographic Information on Alkatiri

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 14 Jun 80 p 5

[Text] Mari Alkatiri is 30 years old. He began his anticolonial struggle in about 1970, when the underground nucleus that was to become FRETILIN was created.

He went to Angola on a scholarship and tried to get in touch with underground MPLA groups. In 1972 he returned to East Timor, where he tried to carry on concerted action with other comrades, and sought Indonesian support to initiate the armed struggle for national liberation.

In 1973 he went to Djakarta. The Indonesians reported him to the authorities of the PIDE/DGB [International and State Defense Police/Security Directorate General] and he began to be persecuted and threatened with deportation. This did not materialize, owing to the advent of 25 April. His job as land surveyor, meanwhile, enabled him to traverse the country and learn about its harsh realities.

He was a charter member of the Social Democratic Action of Timor and of FRETILIN in 1974. He is a member of the Central Committee [CC] of FRETILIN. In October 1975 he was named by the CC as national political commissioner, as well as minister of state for political affairs. In 1977 he was named as minister of foreign relations, since the existence of so many ministers abroad was unjustified.

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CSO: 4401

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT ASSESSED

Need For Stronger Party Role

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 2 Jul 80 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "How Should the Agricultural Cooperative Mechanism Be Run?"]

[Text] Some people believe that the cooperatives lie within the purview of the administrative authorities while others think that they are under the party. Neither view is correct. They do not belong to any branch. Rather, they are a socialist economic collective established by the peasants who voluntarily worked to establish the cooperatives and the cooperative members manage the cooperatives themselves. Production enterprises within the cooperatives are carried on under the leadership of the party and with the guidance and help of the government. Leadership and guidance in establishing cooperatives is carried on in accord with the principles of democratic centralism. The cooperative member congress is the ultimate authority in the cooperative. This congress appoints the administrative committee and the cooperative inspection committee and it discusses and makes decisions in the cooperative.

From what has been said, it can be seen that a cooperative is composed of administrative and management elements such as the administrative committee, the inspection committee, support elements, the cooperative administrative and accounting committees, the treasury, and granary custodian. Besides, this, there are also the production units. These are all elements of a cooperative. However, in the past period, because the administrative and management elements mentioned above have not been active or carried out their tasks well and because they have made mistakes, conflicts have arisen in some of our cooperatives. Labor and production management and the distribution of profits have not been carried out in accord with the principle of "those who work little receive little, those who work much receive much and those who do not work receive nothing." Things have not been carried out in a strict or fair way. This is a problem that must be solved before other problems are tackled.

In order to solve the problems in an efficient way, above all, the leadership of the party must be strengthened and the involvement of the various level

agencies concerned with the cooperative movement must be promoted. To strengthen the leadership of the party, above all, party bases must be established in the rural areas in order to continually help normalize things at the cooperatives, firmly maintain rural area unity and mobilize the masses and production forces so they satisfactorily follow all the policies in order to improve the living conditions of the cooperative members and expand the state economy. The party committees and chapters must lead the cooperatives directly. Party members must set examples in the movement to build cooperatives. They must be the leaders in carrying out tasks in the rural areas, they must spread propaganda, they must lead the masses and, at the same time, they must work hard in production. The leadership of the party must follow a mass line. The party resolutions must be changed so they become acts of self-consciousness and volition of the masses.

As for the district echelon, which is the echelon that directly leads the cooperatives, it must guide the cooperatives in stipulating production directions and in making production plans so they are in accord with the district's general production plans. At the same time, the cooperatives must be guided in building a material and technical base and in the use of progressive techniques in order to support production. As for the provinces, they must guide experiments and publish the results in order to apply them in other places in the province. At the same time, they must give attention to making inspections and helping lower echelons find new data. Positive experiences that are disseminated to other places to follow must point out the weaknesses in order to make improvements promptly. As for mass organizations such as the youth and women's organizations and the united front organizations, they must have detailed plans in order to participate in improving the agricultural cooperatives and promote agricultural and forestry production. Besides this, they must build and improve their own organization with a view toward reinforcing and expanding a mobilizing, leading example. As for other sectors such as agriculture, forestry and irrigation, industry and trade, finance and banking, national planning, propaganda and so on, they must each have their own detailed plans in order to participate in this work.

This is the substance for improving and managing the agricultural cooperatives so they operate satisfactorily and efficiently. Because agricultural cooperatives concern many sectors, if one of these work elements mentioned above is missing, no matter how good the cooperative administrative elements are, the cooperative will not be able to complete its tasks. The most important elements are the party and the primary-level party building organization. The establishment of agricultural cooperatives entails a profound and fierce fight between two paths. Thus, without strong party bases and good party members to provide guidance, even if there are management and administrative elements, it may not be possible to follow the correct path. For this reason, it can be said that strengthening the leadership of the party and state at the various agricultural cooperatives is important for efficient agricultural cooperative management and administration.

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 25 Jun 80 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Thoroughly Carry Out the Orders of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee On Changing Over to Agricultural Cooperatives"]

[Text] On 11 June, the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee issued Order No 117/KLKSK concerning the urgent problem of changing over to agricultural cooperatives and ensuring good harvests during the 1980 production season.

The order reviewed the past activities that have been carried out in changing over to agricultural cooperatives. Its evaluation was that building agricultural cooperatives has been valuable not only from an economic standpoint but also from the standpoint of defending the country, preserving order, increasing the self-consciousness and the cultural, scientific and technical level of the people, promoting the people's right of collective ownership and improving the peasant-worker relationship. Based on this, this has aroused the peasants throughout the country to voluntarily and actively give up the dispersed, private way of making a living and instead join together to form more than 2,500 cooperatives. Also, 22 percent of the total number of peasant families and 37 percent of the agricultural land have been collectivized. This will help increase production, help guard against natural disasters, promote the digging of canals and building of dikes, building irrigation systems and intensive agriculture and promote the use of modern equipment in agriculture. For example, a number of cooperatives in [Meuang] Hatsuifong District, Vientiane Province, use electricity, machinery, new seed varieties and fertilizer in production over a suitably large area. The agricultural cooperative in Sieng Fa in the mountain region has improved agriculture in all respects, such as the growing of rice and cereal grains, the expansion of animal husbandry and so on. These examples show that the party's and state's line concerning changing over to agricultural cooperatives is correct. The people are willing to follow [this line], they have a spirit of solidarity and they are cooperating with and helping each other. The cadres in the various echelon sectors have been diligent and carried out things correctly in accord with the policies of the party and state.

However, because the transformation to agricultural cooperatives has been carried out too rapidly, the internal and external situation at some places is not good. Thus, there is still the phenomenon of reluctance and evasion added to the enemies' scheme of sowing division and chaos which threaten the important cadres. This has divided some of our cooperatives and cooperative members have left the cooperatives. The cadres have given up their leadership and some places have gone back to working as families and blood relative clans. This bad state of affairs certainly has many origins.

But above all, the various echelon party committees, the administrative authorities in all the localities and the agricultural cooperative guidance committees in the various areas have not grasped firmly the plans or the policies of the Party Central Committee. They have not grasped the fact that

in changing over to agricultural cooperatives they must "carry out things step by step, progress from low to high and from small to large and expand and improve things simultaneously." They have not yet grasped the two principles of the benefits such as renting buffaloes and cattle, farmland, production tools and other production equipment. At the same time, they have not realized that the starting point in production is to build a production management system.

The second problem stems from the fact that the various echelon party committees and administrative authorities have entrusted the guidance tasks to the cooperative guidance committees at a time when these management boards are still weak in all respects and there are not enough cadres. This has led to the situation in which only some of the agricultural cooperatives have received guidance and the solutions to problems are agonizingly slow in coming. Another problem is that we lack awareness of and are not careful about the tricks of the enemy. We do not see as important the ideological leadership task. We have not seriously supported things.

In order to correct these weaknesses and solve the problems that have not been given attention, the order of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee stated that:

1. We must resolutely improve the existing agricultural cooperatives using this year's production season as the starting point in improving things. Eliminate divisive tendencies or resignations to work as individuals. If this is to be carried out well, above all, ideological guidance must be provided so that the people have more faith in the lines and policies of the party. First of all, rates for renting agricultural land, buffaloes and cattle and other equipment used in production must be reset. Attention must be given to the policies concerning correctly expanding the cooperative member family economy by ensuring the number of man-days worked for the cooperative to plant the annual wet rice crop and by ensuring that the total area is planted. Also, things must be done on schedule and the proper scientific methods must be used in production. At the same time, an important matter is to mobilize the cooperative members to engage in emulation between the various units and the various cooperatives in order to step up production, crop growing, animal husbandry and the planting of various industrial crops in order to increase the income of the cooperative.

2. In places where it is not yet possible to establish cooperatives, labor exchange units and solidarity production units should be established. Each household should be guided step by step in making their own production plans and in using techniques and adapted tools in production. In those locations that have banded together should move to having a common treasury. The cooperative guidance committee is responsible for guiding and managing the labor exchange and solidarity production system.

3. The provincial party committees, the administrative authorities, the various sectors and, above all, the agricultural offices and the agricultural cooperative guidance committees must quickly allocate and send their cadres

to the localities and to the different key places in order to provide proper support and overcome the difficulties in increasing production and improving the agricultural cooperatives.

The Central Echelon Cooperative Guidance Committee must make detailed plans in order to guide the main activities in improving the agricultural cooperatives in each region, compile documents and hold seminars for the agricultural cooperative management cadres after the rice has been transplanted.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Irrigation, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the banks must make plans to satisfy the requirements in expanding production, animal husbandry, forestry and handicrafts in cooperatives.

The Central Echelon Implementation Committee should guide the cadres in helping and guiding the agricultural cooperative guidance committees in all respects. It should do this for cadres from the central echelon on down to the provincial and district levels. It should have plans to guide making plans to improve party chapters in coordination with guiding production and the agricultural cooperatives.

4. Guiding ideology and spreading propaganda concerning the system of changing over to agricultural cooperatives must be regarded as important tasks. The problems of the cooperative members must be solved in a proper way and the strengths and weaknesses must be pointed out. In particular, the conflicts between the two paths, the old and the new, the backward and the progressive and democratic thinking and oligarchical and other non-democratic thinking, must be pointed out. The schemes of the enemy and of the bad elements who want to destroy the turn to cooperatives must be pointed out. People must increase their awareness and resolutely defend movement to cooperatives.

In order to carry out the order of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee correctly, the various echelon party committees and administrative authorities, the agricultural cooperative guidance committees and the cadres and combatants concerned must have confidence in the lines and policies of the party. They must clearly understand the meaning and spirit of this order of the Party Central Committee. They must make an effort to carry out things correctly, be courageous enough to reveal mistakes so as to correct them and resolutely do things in accord with the lines of the party. It is certain that the movement turning to agricultural cooperatives and agricultural production in our country will improve quickly.

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CSO: 4206

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, SALES, TRADE REPORTED

Hatsaifong Cultivation

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 11 Jun 80 p 1

[Text] Since the end of May, in the spirit of the rainy season, and in order to finish the planting on schedule the peasants and agricultural cooperative members in 11 cantons in [Meuang] Hatsaifong District, Vientiane Province, have hurriedly been planting the annual wet rice crop by diligently sowing seed, plowing fields and repairing canals and various irrigation works.

Since the start of the planting of the annual wet rice crop, they have completed sowing the seed in the initial phase. Several cooperatives have quickly started transplanting the seedlings throughout the 4,300 hectares of fields and 800 hectares have been transplanted.

At present, the planting of the annual wet rice crop is being carried out actively by the local people in Vientiane Province and city in order to complete the work quickly and on schedule and to score achievements in commemoration of the fifth National Day on 2 December.

Vientiane Trade Activity

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 27 May 80 pp 1, 4

[Text] During April 1980, the cadres and workers in the trade companies subordinate to the Vientiane Department of Industry and Trade strove to carry out their tasks and duties with a lofty spirit of responsibility. During this period, they purchased large quantities of forest products from the people, the total value of the goods being 200,315.67 kip. At the same time, they sold various types of goods in the districts valued at 5,331,275 kip. There was also an exchange of goods valued at 168,545.73 kip.

At the same time, the cadres in these companies took goods and sold them at the production bases of the people in Phon Hong District. They also repaired and expanded Store No 4 in order to be able to sell goods at this store in accord with the needs of the people. At present, 90 percent of the repair work has been completed.

Saisettha Cultivation

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 22 May 80 p 1

[Text] Since the end of April 1980, the agricultural cooperative members and the peasants in [Meuang] Saisettha District, Vientiane Capital, have quickly transplanted the annual wet rice crop. They started this after harvesting the dry season rice and preparing soil for the annual wet rice crop.

The total area transplanted this production season is 580 hectares. This year, there are 17 hectares of new rice fields and part of this land has already been transplanted.

At present, the peasants in this district are hurriedly transplanting the annual wet rice crop in order to finish the transplanting on schedule.

Phon Hong Cultivation

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 7 Jun 80 p 1

[Text] Since the middle of May 1980, the members of the agricultural cooperatives and the peasants in [Meuang] Phon Hong District have enthusiastically carried out the sowing and prepared the soil for the annual wet rice crop.

The total area plowed and sown this production season is 5,710 hectares. Following this period of sowing and tilling, they have finished 70 percent of the work and some places have already finished most of the transplanting.

At the same time, some Agriculture, Forestry and Irrigation Department cadres in this district have gone to guide production at the bases, agricultural cooperatives and other places in the district.

This has been done in order to guide and improve the organization of new tasks at the intensive agriculture units, agricultural cooperatives and other collective production teams so that things are done in accord with the real situation and so that 1980-1981 production in the district is completed in a satisfactory manner.

Ngoi District, Luang Prabang Planting

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 9 Jun 80 p 1

[Text] Since the middle of May, the agricultural cooperative members and peasants in different places in [Meuang] Ngoi District, Luang Prabang Province, have quickly and actively planted the annual wet rice crop. At present, they have finished the sowing and have sown approximately 20 tons of seed paddy on more than 600 hectares of fields.

At present, they are striving to look after the young seedlings so they grow well. Labor exchanges have been organized in order to actively prepare the soil and finish the transplanting on schedule.

Meuang Phin, Outhoumphon Sales

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 21 May 80 p A 3

[Excerpt] Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO: At the beginning of 1980, the people in the different localities subordinate to [Meuang] Phin and Outhoumphon districts in Savannakhet Province have voluntarily taken the rice they have saved and sold it to the state. The amount sold was approximately 200 tons, of which more than 16 tons was husked glutinous rice.

At the same time, the cadres at the stores in [Meuang] Sepon District, Savannakhet Province, took 47 tons of salt and 5 tons of husked glutinous rice and sold and traded for goods to the people in the mountain regions. This was done in order to promote production and gradually improve the standard of living of the people.

Vientiane, Luang Prabang Dry Rice

Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 17 May 80 p A 4

[Text] Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO: Since May, the multi ethnic agricultural cooperative members and the peasants in [Tasseng] Pha Khon, Nounsawang Mano, Meunna and Sangkhalok cantons in [Meuang] Luang Prabang District and [Tasseng] Chum Kham, Pak Vet and Sieng Ngeun cantons in [Meuang] Sieng Ngeun District in Luang Prabang Province and the agricultural cooperative members in [Meuang] Hatsaifong, Sisathannak and other districts in Vientiane City and Province have made preparations to quickly harvest and store the dry rice in a systematic way.

To date, they have been able to harvest and store most of the rice on the more than 3,000 hectares of fields. Of this, Vientiane Province has 2,760 hectares. In Vientiane Province, it has been possible to harvest 2 tons per hectare.

At present, these agricultural cooperative members and peasants are actively and hurriedly storing the dry rice in order to finish the work on schedule. This is being done in order to make preparations to start planting the annual wet rice crop.

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CSO: 4206

RESISTANCE TO COOPERATIVIZATION CONTINUES, PAPER RESPONDS

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 11 Jun 80 p 2

[Conservation with the Editor column: "Do We Have to Join the Cooperatives?"]

[Text] Dear Editor of VIENTIANE MAI: In writing this letter to the newspaper, we will sign our name as "Pho Na" [field fathers] in order to make things more convenient. We have written this letter to you to ask the following questions:

1. We do not want to become members of an agricultural cooperative at all. Is this possible?
2. Last year we joined an agricultural cooperative in our village and we went hungry. But if we engage in private farming activities we have enough to eat.

That is enough to ask for now. We hope that you can give us a satisfying answer.

Dear "Pho Na": Concerning the question you have asked, various newspapers, especially SIANG PASASON, have already answered this question in great detail. You have not followed matters and, therefore, you do not know about this. But that is all right. We will add a few more details. But it must be said beforehand that we cannot discuss things in detail because page space considerations do not permit. We will discuss only the major problems dealing with principles and you can come to your own conclusions.

1. Concerning duties in changing over to agricultural cooperatives, the resolution of the Party Central Committee mentioned the following:

--Voluntariness

--Collective benefits

--democratic administration

Concerning your question about whether you have to join an agricultural cooperative, you must first understand the path of a socialist economy to be able

to know whether it is better to join an agricultural cooperative or not. First of all, you must realize that agricultural cooperatives are just a means of building a basis for a socialist economy but they do not constitute a socialist economy. The first period of growth of a socialist economy is the period of modern industry and agriculture. As for agriculture, the important thing is to expand production. Production requires modern science and knowledge. At that point, we will change the agricultural cooperatives to agricultural settlements and there will not be any more agricultural cooperatives. Why don't we build agricultural settlements instead of agricultural cooperatives? [The answer is that] we are presently in a transitional period and are advancing to socialism. Work exchange [teams], solidarity labor [units] and agricultural cooperatives are just the starting point in order to build the basic conditions for a socialist economy. It is not possible to skip directly to a socialist economy without going through the transitional period. We know that our country lacks an economic base. Ours is a small-scale and dispersed economy. Stated simply, we did not pass through the capitalist stage. Thus, we cannot just skip into filling the needs of the economic forces in terms of equipment and labor tools etc. We must build the economic forces step by step from low to high. Specifically by putting construction first and transformation as a back up as stated in Resolution No 7. This is enough; I hope you understand. If you understand now, the answer to your question about whether it is necessary to join an agricultural cooperative or not should be clear.

2. Agricultural cooperatives will not lead to hunger. On the contrary, agricultural cooperatives will allow you and other farmers to make progress toward a satisfactory standard of living and toward short-term and long-term prosperity. We are encountering difficulties at the beginning because of our lack of creative thinking, most of the agricultural cooperative administrative committees work mechanically. Because most of us lack knowledge, there is no thinking about making plans. After studying the principles, they don't know how to put them to use. The prime minister has told us that everyone should strive to study in order to increase his knowledge. If we have knowledge and a satisfactory level of education, we will be able to complete each task and fulfill the resolutions and orders.

You should go and visit a good unit and study its experiences; you could visit a unit in Hatsuifong District, for example. You should study how they look after calculation [of work points], how they employ the laborers, their production and so on to see what things are like there. Last year, we went and listened to talks by the administrative committee. People who did not join were very disappointed. No one [should be] displeased. As the comrade said: the policies are correct but, the people who go to implement the policies do not present things clearly or in detail. This matter depends on the level of each person. We agree with the comrade that the policies of the party and state are clear-sighted and you should have faith in them and in yourself. Only through education will it be possible for you to make progress and understand all the problems.

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CSO: 4206

COOPERATIVES URGED TO ALLOW INITIATIVE FOR PRIVATE PRODUCTION

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 9 Jul 80 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Do A Good Job of Paying Attention to the Subsidiary Economy of Cooperative Member Families"]

[Text] The subsidiary economy of the family members of the cooperative is advantageous in helping the collective economy as well as increasing production for society and enlarging the incomes of the family members of the cooperative themselves. In the past they did not recognize this problem. There were cooperatives in some places that had a program of bringing everything to the cooperative and prohibiting the family members from producing anything for themselves. This procedure was wrong and did not conform with the state and party policy guidelines. It reduced goods and income for the family.

We must admit that at a time when our farmers throughout the country are changing their individual scattered way of making a living to collective socialist production in the form of agricultural cooperatives, the agricultural cooperatives at first will not produce every kind of goods to supply all the members. According to the initial estimate it is known that in one year all the cooperative members and our farmers in general have actually worked only 150 to 200 days at most. This means that there are still more than 100 days or almost 200 days when they are idle. So it is necessary to look at figures and it is good for us to pay attention to the subsidiary economy of the family cooperative members to use the remaining work days, making it convenient for them to make what the cooperative cannot produce. This would include animal feed, fresh vegetables, fruit, pigs, ducks, chickens, cattle, etc. To do this would have many benefits. It will keep our farmers from wasting time and they will produce many items to serve society. It will improve their standard of living. There will also be other effects. What will induce our people to join production in the agricultural cooperative units is the subsidiary production within their own family.

The important point to note in the subsidiary economy for family cooperative members is that certain amount of land and time must be given to the members, with guidance to each one to recognize the meaning of the subsidiary economy for the cooperative family members, making them alert to

take every opportunity for producing a bountiful economy, to improve their living standards, and to boost production for society. But when we speak of encouraging the subsidiary economy of the family cooperative members we ought to avoid two incorrect tendencies. These are: (1) interfering with the family economy and (2) allowing the family economy to expand freely at will. This would lead to a situation where the cooperative members would just live off the incomes from the family economy and not work for the cooperative. It means that they would pay attention to the family subsidiary economy but this would not be reflected in the collective tasks. Do not allow conflicts between the family economy and the cooperative economy. Whatever is properly done will make the cooperative progress day by day, raising the quantity of production to a high degree as well as the efficiency of production, improving progressively the daily life of all cooperative members.

9615

CSO: 4206

NATIONAL BANK TO HAVE BRANCHES IN ALL DISTRICTS

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 28 Jun 80 pp 1,3

[Text] On the afternoon of 27 June, the board of directors of the Vientiane City and Province branch of the National Bank held ceremonies to open the Hataisong bank branch in Vientiane Province. Attending were provincial administrative committee officials from Vientiane City and Province, representatives from the Vientiane provincial branch of the National Bank, authorities from [Neuang] Hataisong District, representatives from the canton administrative committee and people from this area.

On this occasion, Mr Wongsai Laothantou, the head of the Vientiane City and Province bank branch, stated that the Hataisong branch of the National Bank is the third branch to be established in the first 6 months of this year. The first and second branches were established in [Neuang] Phon Hong and Paksan districts respectively. These were established in order to build on Resolution No 7 in order to build on resolution of the Party Central Committee Politburo that has stipulated that in 1980 the provincial branches of the National Bank in all provinces must establish branches in every district. This is to be done in order to support production, trade and the lives of the people. He added that the bank branches in each district are responsible for receiving the money deposited by state stores, state economic organizations and collective production units. At the same time, these bank branches are also responsible for making it convenient for the state economic organizations and the collective production units to borrow money from the revolving funds and from the fixed funds in order to support these people in building an economic base. Besides this, they will also provide savings account services for the local people.

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CSO: 4206

COLUMN CITES REASONS FOR WORSENING INFLATION

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 28 Jun 80 pp 2, 3

[Letters Answered column: "Why Are the Prices of Goods Increasing?"]

[Text] Because she was interested and could not find an answer, Miss LISAIVI, who lives in Saphang Mo village in Vientiane, urgently wrote a letter to ask the editor of SIANG PASASON "Why do state prices depend on market prices in some places. For example, when market prices increase, state prices increase too. (Previously, 1 meter of cloth cost 8.7 kip. But the price has increased continually, to 15 kip per meter, then 18, 20....) What is the reason for this?"

[Answer] Concerning the problem of prices, the editor would like to say that the resolution of the Party Central Committee has clearly pointed out that the price system originally established in 1976, was the price system of the old liberated zones which were zones where the economy and trade had not expanded. This made it impossible to expand state trade, or increase and strengthen the management of the markets. The price of goods has been lower than their value and great quantities of goods were smuggled out of the country. The state has, therefore, had to use foreign currency to buy goods on the world market at prices that are 10 times higher than domestic prices. At the same time, domestic market prices cannot be separated from world market prices. Also, prices on the world market have changed greatly. Capitalists are facing a monetary and oil crisis. Transportation costs of goods that must be imported through Thailand have increased greatly. In such a situation, it would not be rational to maintain prices at their original levels.

Prices represent the value of goods in the form of money. Fluctuations in prices represent fluctuations in the value of the goods. At times when state trade is unable to purchase and sell goods, agricultural production cannot be expanded either, the lives of the people will be difficult and there will be difficulties in exporting and importing goods. Illegal trading activities and opportunism would increase, making it impossible for prices to rise or drop. This would be working against value standards and make it impossible for the national economy to expand. In accord with the conditions mentioned above, we will adjust the price system so that it is in accord with domestic and world market requirements and the value of the bank kip in order to satisfy the requirements of the lines and policies of the party and state. Trade must be increased, production must be expanded and the standard of living of the people must be made normal. These will contribute to limiting and abolishing the restrictive phenomena in society.

COLUMN COMMENTS ON THAI REPATRIATION OF KAMPUCHEAN REFUGEES

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 17 Jun 80 p 2

['Talking Together' column by S. Thip Thiengchan: "What Was Thailand's Purpose in Repatriating Refugees Back to Kampuchea?"]

[Text] Two to three days ago, the Thai government announced that Thai officials would repatriate a group of Khmer refugees back to Kampuchea. The Thai officials claimed that the purpose of this is to satisfy the wish of the refugees to return to their homeland and to act in accord with humanitarian principles that are shared by people throughout the world. As for the problem, on 13 June, the Kampuchean Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned Thai officials for being enemies who want to take new steps to threaten security along the Kampuchean border. The announcement made these strong accusations and called on Thai authorities to stop making use of the Khmer refugee problem and so-called humanitarian aid to destroy the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. It also called on Thailand to stop using Thai territory to oppose Kampuchea.

The announcement mentioned the good intentions of the Kampuchean government, which wants to open discussions with the Thai government concerning improving relations and promoting normal friendship between both countries. The goal of this is to reduce border tensions and to make progress toward building relations between the [two] neighboring countries. But the proposal by the Kampuchean government was totally rejected by Thai officials, who claimed that Thailand does not recognize the government of Heng Samrin but still recognizes the ousted government of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary. In this case, peace-loving people throughout the world are aware of the negative intentions and the stubborn and arrogant plans of the Bangkok powerholders, who have shown directly and totally that they oppose the interests of the Thai people and the people of neighboring countries, especially those of the people of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The announcement demonstrated the bad intentions of the Bangkok power holders, who continually support the evil schemes of the imperialists and, in particular, of the Beijing power holders. The Beijing power holders have continually opposed the people of Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand. On

11 June, TAO made the criticism that the policy of the Chinese is to divide the territory of neighboring countries in order to put these countries under their control and use them as a base for carrying out their doctrine of great power chauvinism. Furthermore, the report stated that at present the Chinese are using Yunnan Province, a province in southern China that borders the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], as a base for the movement that opposes the revolution in Laos. They have formed bandit groups composed of soldiers and Chinese military officers who are of the Mong nationality and put them into several provinces in Laos with the aim of causing destruction and disorder and interfering in our affairs with the hope of forming the government of an "independent kingdom." Besides this, the Chinese power holders have built new bases near the Thai, Vietnamese, Lao and Burmese borders. This is the wicked scheme of the Beijing power holders, who constantly hope to make Mao's theory and dream of world control a reality.

Returning to the present situation in Kampuchea, the Bangkok power holders are trying to create another tense situation, especially along the Kampuchean-Thai border. They are using the refugee problem as a screen to carry out the new military strategy. They are trying to gain the attention of the people of the world by claiming that they are doing things for humanitarian reasons with the hope of placing the responsibility for the refugee problem on the Kampuchean side. However, the people of Kampuchea and the peace-loving people of the world will respond to this evil trick in a proper way and will resolutely oppose it.

The view of world political circles is that the unilateral rejection by Thai authorities of the good intentions of the Kampuchean government in making proposals to open the way for negotiations between the two sides clearly shows the unfriendly intentions of the Thai authorities towards Kampuchea. Worse yet, if talks were held today, it would be tantamount to a breach of the agreement between Bangkok and the Beijing arch imperialist masterminds. But discussions will never be held as long as the Bangkok power holders passively follow the world disruptive schemes of Beijing and the imperialists. An SPK news report stated that the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea strongly desires to hold talks and to have friendly relations between the two countries. But these good intentions have been rejected by Bangkok and, what is more, the Thai officials have stubbornly raised the refugee problem in matters.

This shows the bad intentions of the Bangkok leadership, who constantly follow Beijing's behind concerning the "Kampuchean problem." The fact that Thai officials have involved the refugee problem, that is, repatriating Kampuchean refugees without the consent of the masters of the country, is not only direct interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea but it also shows the evil actions of the Bangkok authorities in following the military war strategy of Beijing, which is using the Bangkok authorities to oppose the Khmer people, who are presently carrying on a revolution. SPK concluded its strong criticism by stating that "Bangkok's actions are destroying the immediate and long-term rights and interests of Thailand itself and they are showing that Thailand is refusing to establish good neighborly relations with Kampuchea and other countries in Southeast Asia. Besides this, these actions are beneficial to the Chinese big power chauvinists who constantly dream of ruling every country in this region in accord with the big-nation intentions and thinking of Mao Zedong.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR BORDER INCIDENTS PLACED ON THAIS

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 20 Jun 80 p 2

['Talking Together' column by S. Thip Thiengchan: "Who Is Responsible for the Incident?"]

[Text] On the night of 14 June 1980, 10 armed bandits in military uniform crossed the border from Thailand in row boats and entered the house of Mr Boun, who lives in Khok Sai village, [Tasseng] Sithantal canton, [Meuang] Natsaifong District, Vientiane Province. Our public security units took action to suppress them. The bandits had to flee and they left behind one of their number dead, one M16 rifle, three rounds of ammunition and a row boat. At 1200 hours on 15 June 1980, four armed Thai MROU [Mekong River Operations Unit] patrol boats made trips up and down the river in this area. At 1300 hours on the same day, two large Thai MROU boats joined the others. The patrol boats divided into two groups. One of the patrol boats sailed directly to the Lao side of the river in order to recover the body of the bandit. But at the same time, we fired shots to prevent this and this patrol boat turned away. However, instead of returning to the Thai side as they should have since they were in the wrong, at 1700 hours one of the large patrol boats again came over to the Lao side only 15 meters from the bank with the aim of recovering the body of the bandit. When our forces saw this, they again fired shots. This patrol boat fled to the Thai side and docked at Pha Kho village. Concerning this case, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the Thai ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic to come in order to inform him of the incident. This was done with good intentions and with the hope that the Thais would come and recover the body and the boat that we had seized. It was hoped that they would quickly take measures to put an end to the matter which they had caused which would be in accord with the spirit and contents of the joint Lao-Thai communique and so that the wishes of the people's of both countries can be fulfilled. The people of both countries want the Mekong River to be a river of friendship and they really want the relationship between the two peoples to be one of brothers. But instead of the situation becoming calmer, the Thais have closed the border as a measure to punish us.

Concerning this matter, besides the fact that it is contrary to the joint Lao-Thai communique, it has also contrary to the feelings of the peoples of both countries, people who have always thought of each other as brothers. The

governments of both countries have always agreed about peace and the fraternal relationship between the two countries. They have constantly tried to maintain good relations with each other. Thus, in the past period, the border has been kept open so that the people of both countries can pass back and forth easily in order to make visits like brothers. Concerning the joint communique of the two governments, our side has followed the communique and good results have been achieved on several fronts based on expanding the good will of this joint communique. The Thai reactionary power holders, lackeys who support the dark schemes of the imperialists and international reactionaries, have always conducted propaganda movements to distort the truth and slander the Lao government and people. These people have frequently instigated undesirable incidents along the Lao-Thai border and in Laos. These people have sent spies and bandits to carry out disruptive acts and create disorder in several regions in Laos. Also, they have given shelter to exiled Lao reactionaries. When they are fitted out, they send them to Laos in order to destroy peace and order in Laos. The government and people of Laos cannot tolerate this any longer. [The government] is using every means possible to improve relations and promote friendship with the Thai government. It is making a great effort to do things strictly in accord with the contents and spirit of the joint communique in order to make Southeast Asia a zone of real peace and order. But, unfortunately, our good wishes have constantly been thwarted and destroyed by Thai reactionaries, power holders and some lackey Bangkok warlords who support the dark schemes of the imperialists and international reactionaries. We have strongly condemned [these things] and warned the Thai government to quickly put a stop to such incidents, incidents that are desired by the people of neither country. We have warned the Thai government to implement strict measures to quickly suppress the bad people (the people who oppose peace) now living in Thailand and to implement measures to reopen the border as quickly as possible in accord with the desires of the people of both countries and the contents and spirit of the rational, sacred and far-reaching joint communique of the two countries. Because, in the communique, it was clearly stated that whenever some incident happens, both sides must discuss things with each other in a calm and peaceful manner. Things should not be carried out unilaterally (by just one side). If one side carries out actions on a unilateral basis, this is considered wrong.

Concerning this tense situation and this incident that was instigated by the Thai reactionaries against the Lao people, it is the same as the tense situation that exists along the Thai-Kampuchean border. This situation in fraternal Kampuchea has resulted from Thai officials unilaterally repatriating Kampuchean refugees back to Kampuchea. But our situation has arisen because of the provocations the bandits and Thai reactionaries. Foreign political organizations have criticized these two situations: The Thai reactionaries, the Bangkok power holders, are at present striving to support and carry out the plans in the secret agreements with the imperialists and international reactionaries. Some of the Thai warlords are being forced to expand the so-called "new war strategy," which is against the morals of the people of Southeast Asia. A recent news report stated that a conflict has arisen between the Bangkok power holders and the Thai reactionary warlords. This

conflict has arisen for several reasons. One is the situation that has arisen along the Kampuchean border concerning the refugee matter. But regardless, this is a matter that has taken place in Thailand and, therefore, we should not become involved because it is the internal problem of another country. Our people have always respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighboring countries and we have always had good intentions. In the situation in which we have good intentions but others want to harm us, we must defend ourselves. All Lao people have great love for their country and they are ready to sacrifice their lives rather than give up an inch of Lao territory to others. Lao heroes will live eternally.

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CSO: 4206

INDUSTRIAL GOODS SALES REPORTED

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 20 Jun 80 p 1

[Text] Between January and May 1980, the cadres and workers in the Industrial Goods Sales Company in the Vientiane Department of Industry and Trade in Vientiane have given attention to selling various types of equipment to satisfy the needs of the cadres, soldiers and people and they have achieved good results.

The various types of goods that have been sold include office supplies, agricultural supplies, housing construction building materials, sports equipment, consumer goods and other types of household goods. Thing sold include:

One hundred pens, 4,380 pencils

1,356 erasers, 97,040 notebooks of various types, 17,013 packages of paper of all types; 9,530 sheets of tin, 591 hammers, 40 rolls of barbed wire, 164 saws, 8,373 saw blades, 2,128 screwdrivers, 100 harrows, 1,030 plow blades, 20 plows, 60 hoes and 140 bottles of distilled water. Consumer goods included 398,236 meters of cloth of various types, 63,780 pieces of ready-made clothing and 987 suits and dresses, more than 13.6 [metric] tons of cotton yarn, 1,412 spools of thread, 400 artificial leather belts. 49,067 pots of various types, 5,843 rice steamers, 7,292 kettles, 59,655 plates and bowls, 6,638 spoons, forks and ladles, 817 kilograms of rope for tying buffaloes, 1,036 plastic glasses and mortars and 1,290 liters of kerosene. Besides this, large quantities of other types of consumer goods [were sold].

At present, the cadres and workers in the company are selling goods to support the cadres, soldiers and people in order to increase production and improve the lives of the people during the annual [wet rice] planting season.

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CSO: 4206

WAGES SAID TO FALL BEHIND PRICE RISES

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 9 Jul 80 p 2

[Article in 'Letters Answered' Column]

[Text] A letter from Comrade Bounngang Vannavong, a cadre, [Mouang] Siang Ngeun District finance cadre, asked this question: Everything whether from the state or private enterprise is more expensive every day, but the rate of wages for cadres and organizational workers is limited to the old scale. How shall we escape this situation? According to rumors the state will raise wages and will raise the price of rice. Is this true? Please inform us.

The editor answers as follows: Our Party Central Committee and our government have been aware, not just now but beforehand, of the difficulties and hardships of the cadres, organizational workers, including all the people. They understand all this but the solution to the problem is not a very simple matter. At present in the world all the nations that have modern industry and agriculture have experienced difficulty in food supplies. The prices of goods in the world have risen. So our nation, which is not a producer of manufactured articles, cannot avoid the effects of this situation. Resolution No 7 of the Party Central Committee is the first resolution to set up procedures to improve the national economy by expanding it in the direction of independence and self-mastery to better living conditions step by step. It would not be difficult to build our national economy following the way of dependency on other countries, without considering our national honor and giving in to being a debtor.

Therefore in the transition from capitalism to socialism while our economy still has many confused facets, we must understand and profoundly face our national economic problem. In a situation where we ought not to oppose anyone, we have only to work together in the spirit and letter of Resolution No 7, seeking the true path to solve difficulties, which then will begin to diminish.

The evil rumor that the state will raise wages for the cadres and organizational workers and will increase the price of rice eight or nine kip has

no basis in fact. It is natural that in a situation where the prices of goods are changing the sections concerned must look for an appropriate solution. The problem of raising or reducing prices must be solved rationally. But the fact that the rumor appeared before the official announcement shows clearly that the enemy has infiltrated to cause ideological confusion in the rank and file of the cadres and our people. We must understand that now the imperialists and international reactionaries are using tricks to destroy the economy and create political chaos in opposing our country over a long period. Today they are trying to interfere and destroy us in every area that gives them the opportunity. Therefore, we cannot be negligent in keeping alert.

As for the pseudonym "Sonchai," he protested that he had written letters twice but received no answer. The editor appreciates his feelings. Some problems will be similar to questions posed by others. But the important thing about "Sonchai" is that he did not inform us of the name of the department and locality that he is assigned to and his true name. We raise issues sincerely. Therefore, we ought not to have secrecy nor fear of anyone. The various questions depend on whether they have value. We hope that "Sonchai" will understand.

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CSO: 4206

RICE RATION PRIORITIES REPORTED

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 10 Jul 80 p 2

['Conversations with the Editor' Column: "Can the People Buy State Rice Rations?"]

[Text] I, Sonthani, of Nong Boua Thong Village, ask the editor of VIENTIANE MAI about the improvement of certain aspects of our living conditions.

1. Can the people buy rice from the state? If so, how much?
2. I heard the report that all the state stores are to be transferred to [Vientiane] city-province. Is that true? Many people want to know if under the city-province it will be difficult for cadres to make purchases. What type of ration books is there and where are purchases made? Please ask about this for us.

[Answer] Thanks to Comrade Sonthani of Nong Boua Thong Village and Comrade Douangtha who wrote letters to us. Comrade Douangtha, why didn't you tell us where you live? You do not need to hide because no one will call you right or wrong about any problem. It is good to write providing that it is beneficial to society. Today we requested authority to answer you jointly because each one asked only a short question.

1. Every Lao person has the right of equality. He has the right to establish a residence and a livelihood, as he wishes. Therefore, buying rice is not a problem. Anyone may buy, depending on the regulations of the food company which are explained for us here. The sale of rice to the people now is divided into three categories.

a. People who are impoverished, meaning that they have had misfortune from natural disasters such as floods or drought, will get their certifying documents from the administrative authorities.

b. People who pay taxes to the state, meaning the group that pays agricultural tax, will take their tax payment papers along with their application.

c. People who are ordinary poor will take their family census as verification.

The ration received depends on the quantity of rice in stock. The ration is small or large according to the apportionment.

2. In accordance with the collective decision all the state stores in the capital have become subordinate to the Vientiane Trade and Industry Section as of 1 July 1980, but there is some difficulty about control. Therefore, in practice there are still some services under the central echelon and some places are under Vientiane City-Province as before. But they are gradually turning over all control to the city-province as mentioned before. Therefore, the government workers' ration books to buy cooperative goods which still follow the former method, are temporary pending final adjustment.

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CSO: 4206

LPDR TRAINEES STUDY RAILWAY OPERATIONS IN GDR

Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 9 Jul 80 p 3

[Article by Sutta Aassenbrenner: "Solidarity Assistance of the GDR to the LPDR"]

[Excerpt] Lao youth are receiving two years training in railway operations at the Cottbus Factory, having begun in March of last year. They are one group of more than 500 Lao young people who are in the German Democratic Republic [GDR]. They left their native land to travel thousands of kilometers to study at factories, state farms or at universities and various technical schools in socialist Germany, to bring back technical knowledge and skills to their work of building the new society in Laos.

Not only in the GDR but also in Laos itself the Germans are helping to train technical students. Last year GDR experts aided Laos in establishing and developing the Pak Pasak Technical School in Vientiane, as well as cooperating in constructing four buildings for training radio and TV technicians, automobile mechanics, tailors, and clock repairmen. Besides this the GDR also assumed the responsibility for training cadres as teachers.

In educational assistance last year the GDR printed 620,000 textbooks for Laos. This year the GDR experts will start to build another 13 repair shops which received financial support from a solidarity fund of GDR people. At the same time the Free German Youth prepared to send volunteers to build a training center for mechanics and construction workers.

9615

CSO: 4206

BRIEFS

CHAMPASSAK BANK DEPOSITS--Last May, cadres, organizational workers and the people in [Neuang] Paksong District, Champassak Province, took the money they had saved and deposited it in the bank. A total of 128,544 kip was deposited. Depositing money in the bank is one way of increasing a family's income. Also, this is a way of increasing the capital that the state can use to build the economy, maintain the security of the country and improve the living conditions and cost of living of the people so that things are normal. At the same time, this shows that the people who deposit money have satisfactorily carried out their civic responsibilities toward the state and the people. [Text] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 25 Jun 80 pp 1, 2] 11943

KEO OUDOM FISHERIES--From January until the end of June 1980, the laborers in the seven fishing cooperatives in [Neuang] KEO-OUDOM District, Vientiane Province, satisfactorily showed their willingness to fulfill their responsibilities. During this period, these people caught fish in order to deliver them to the state fish sales cooperative in Vientiane. They delivered more than 300 tons in order to support the daily lives of the cadres, soldiers, police, the laborers in various offices and organizations and the people in Vientiane municipality. At present, the laborers mentioned above are trying to catch even more fish. This is being done in order to score achievements in celebration of the fifth National Day on 2 December. [Text] [Vientiane VIETIANE MAI in Lao 7 Jul 80 pp 1, 3] 11943

OUDOMSAI LITERACY WORK--Vientiane, KHAOSAN PATHET LAO: On 25 June, the leaders in the campaign to eliminate illiteracy in [Neuang] Sai District, Oudomsai Province, held ceremonies to officially announce the results of eliminating illiteracy in this district. The teachers have been diligent and the students have studied constantly. Good results have been achieved in the past period. A total of 16,187 people in eight cantons and 97 villages have learned to read. On this occasion, certificates of achievement and presents were given to the outstanding teachers, students, cantons and villages in this campaign to eliminate illiteracy. Various difficulties were encountered in teaching and studying in this district. But because people are aware of the bad effects of being illiterate and of the fact that this will keep the country from making progress, everyone was determined to study diligently. They overcame the obstacles and this enabled them to successfully eliminate illiteracy in their district. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 4 Jul 80 p A 3] 11943

ODDOMAI COOPERATIVE ESTABLISHED--Vientiane, KHAOSAN PATHET LAO: At the end of June, the villagers in Houai Rok village, [Tasseng] Pak Kham Canton, [Neuang] Houm District, Oudomai Province, voluntarily turned away from small-scale private production to engage in large-scale socialist production by establishing an agricultural cooperative with 165 members, 29 families, 30 draft animals and agricultural production tools. After it was established, the members elected an administrative committee and an inspection and guidance committee to guide production. At the same time, new production plans were made in detail and the production labor was divided in order to start production in an appropriate manner. At present, these people are hurriedly planting the annual wet rice crop in order to finish the planting on schedule. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 3 Jul 80 p A 3] 11943

VIENTIANE ELECTRIFICATION--Since the end of February, the Lao State Electricity Enterprise, which is subordinate to the Lao Machinery and Electrical Energy Department, has brought medium and low voltage electricity to production bases in several places in Vientiane Province. For example, power poles have been erected and 8 power lines have been installed from the power base along Highway 13 to the vegetable seed propagation nursery, the Na Phok chicken farm, the agricultural college and the Na Bing cattle breeding settlement. Eighty percent of the work has been completed. Also, medium-voltage electricity has been installed at the Soil Research Center and at the Dong Dok chicken breeding farm. During this period, the laborers in this enterprise have also improved the medium-voltage power system at the modern Don Du slaughter house and the work is expected to be completed within 15 days. As for the plans for the rest of 1980, Mr Khamnon Phonkao, the head of the Lao State Power Enterprise, stated that at the end of the rainy season, medium-voltage power lines will be installed from Nong Taeng to the Volvo auto repair shop. Also, preparations are being made to electrify the water pumps at the Veun Kham settlement and at the Nong Tha agricultural cooperative. This plan will be implemented and fulfilled before December 1980. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 27 Jun 80 p A 3] 11943

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN PHONG SALLY--To fulfill the plan for the expansion of communications routes, distribution for production, and construction in general, in the first six months of this year, the cadres and workers serving in various branches in the Public Works, Communications, and Transportation Section, Phong Saly Province, determined to perform its tasks with enthusiasm to complete every job assigned by the province. They supplied the vehicle transport for 151 trips and a freight load of 345 tons, water transport for 164 trips with a load of 96 tons, and provided transport for 321 passenger trips. In addition, the Public Works branch concentrated on the repair of roads between localities in a spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. At the same time they repaired many routes, such as that from Ngai Neua Village to Sop Khing, completing more than 3,200 meters. They built 3,800 meters of new roads in the vicinity of Pak Nam Rui and repaired 150 km of old deteriorated roads. The people in various locales also were eager to repair horse trails between places, a total of 18 routes, more than 220 km. They built new horse trails and inspected 361 km of track. All the people showed an eager spirit in transporting rice, "phaei" [translation unknown] with their own vehicles or in carrying goods on shoulder poles over long routes in the faraway mountains. These factors made possible the speedy fulfillment of the provincial communications plan according to their estimate. [Text] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 12 Jul 80 pp 1, 3] 9615

KEO CHUDOM LITERACY WORK--Keo-chudom is one of 15 district towns subordinate to Vientiane Province. It is the third town in the province that has been able to eliminate illiteracy officially. [Excerpt] [Vientiane SIAM PABSON in Lao 9 Jul 80 p 2] 9615

CHINAIMO WATERWORKS CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS--The Chinaimo Waterworks Construction Board informed our reporter on 9 July 1980 that this large construction project can supply the people of Vientiane City with more than 40,000 cubic meters of water per day in the first phase, in the second phase 80,000 cubic meters, and in the third 120,000 cubic meters per day. They began construction at the beginning of 1979. The work in this project is 75 percent completed. 1. The construction of the reservoir for untreated water, the mixing basin, the settling basin, the filter basin, and the powerhouse, which has 2,500 cubic meters of steel reinforced concrete pillars, is 88 percent finished. 2. The construction of the pumping station of the high-voltage electric power plant, which has 1,100 cubic meters of steel reinforced concrete pillars, is 75 percent completed. 3. The construction of the underground storage tanks for pure water, the water analysis research laboratory, the chemical research laboratory, and the chemical warehouse, which has 1,000 cubic meters of steel reinforced concrete pillars is 70 percent completed. 4. The excavation of the passage to lay the intake pipes is 28,500 (as published) meters long, a very difficult and complicated job, especially in the rainy season. This is only 10 percent completed. [Text] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 10 Jul 80 pp 1, 4] 9615

PHON HONG RELIEF WORK--Vientiane (KPL)--Since the beginning of the year the Social Welfare Branch, [Mouang] Phon Hong District, Vientiane Province, has brought consumer goods to people who suffered fire and natural disasters. The aid at this time included 15 tons of husked rice, 10 bags of salt, 40 cans of butter, 48 tins of milk, 132 blankets, 83 mosquito nets, 105 mats, 84 rice pots, 84 soup pots, 50 cast iron pots, 118 bowls, 118 plates, 190 spoons, 50 large basins, 118 water buckets, 36 hoes, 36 shovels, 20 spades, 49 axes, 20 machetes, 139 meters of cloth, 65 skirts, and 21 loin cloths. The Social Welfare Branch distributed these things first to persons who had suffered misfortune. Now it is continuing to give them out to offer relief to the people as a base for a return to a normal life. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 14 Jul 80 p A3] 9615

CSO: 4206

ANALYSIS OF ANOTHER POTENTIAL WAR IN INDOCHINA

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 17 Jul 80 p 3

[Editorial: "Will China Reattack Vietnam?"]

[Text] U.S. Senate leader Harry P. Byrd said yesterday after his meeting with Chinese leaders that he saw no signs that China will mount another armed attack against Vietnam. Although Senator Byrd gained such an impression from his meeting with the Chinese leaders, is that what China really wants?

The recent armed clashes between Thailand and Kampuchea have created tensions along their border and have claimed heavy casualties at the refugee camps in Thailand, targets of the Vietnamese communist artillery fire. Thailand has followed such border clashes with a vehement condemnation of Vietnam's barbarous and shameless acts.

The Vietnamese attack against Thailand was mounted at a time when the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Nobody could explain why Vietnam wanted to attack Thailand at that time. But the Vietnamese foreign minister pinpointed the undefined border demarcation line between Thailand and Kampuchea as the cause of conflict--diplomatic parlance few people can accept. Now let us ask: Could the undefined border demarcation line constitute the reason for mobilizing tanks and artillery corps to attack the already wounded and half-starved refugees?

During the past few days, border clashes have also been reported between China and Vietnam near Yunnan Province. China has repeatedly warned against future Vietnamese attacks, declaring that if Vietnam continues its armed provocations, China will not rule out the possibility of another "punitive" operation against Vietnam. As we can foresee, in the event of another war between China and Vietnam, the former may mobilize its navy, army, and air force simultaneously to launch a massive offensive against Vietnam until it brings all of Indochina under its control. When that time comes, China cannot be expected to stop its march at any "specifically premeditated point" and then withdraw its troops back home, as it did last year.

Although we have no way of knowing what China really wants, this much is clear: If China launches another massive attack against Vietnam, it will first

have to get the tacit approval of the United States and Japan. As soon as it brings all of Indochina under its control, it may pull its troops back to China after turning over the occupied territory to the United Nations and placing it under U.N. trusteeship. Only in this way can China foil the Soviet attempt for domination over this region.

When China mounted its punitive self-defense counterattacks against Vietnam last year, it received little international support and ended the war with heavy losses. Today it is concentrating its resources on promoting the four modernizations. Will its future massive armed attack against Vietnam adversely affect its four modernizations program? This is a subject of deep concern on the part of the Chinese leadership. It seems unlikely that China will mount another punishing operation against Vietnam at the expense of the four modernizations.

It can be said with certainty that whether or not China reattacks Vietnam depends on whether Hua Guofeng and Carter reached any degree of agreement on this matter during their last summit in Japan.

9574

CSO: 6209

CHINESE COMMUNITY FACES DECADE OF CHALLENGE

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 17 Jul 80 p 8

[16 July news report from Kuala Lumpur]

[Text] Li Lin-tai [2621 7207 3141], member of Parliament from Kuala Lumpur, urged the Chinese community to regard the 1980's as a decade of unity. He also called on its members to rally behind a common endeavor to constantly develop and improve their economy and to maintain and strengthen their existing economic posture.

On the evening of 16 July, Li Lin-tai delivered a speech on the occasion of the second anniversary of the founding of the Selangor Cook Friendship Association, of which he is an honorary consultant.

He pointed out: Upon entering the 1980's we must review our past, become more united than ever, and pay close attention to the development of the current political situation. Gone are the days when we could remain indifferent to affairs of state and enjoy life in isolation from the rest of the country.

He pointed out that unity means strength which can keep our position in the economic, political, educational, and cultural fields from falling apart.

He said that our current urgent task is to get a clear understanding of the situation, to eliminate prejudice, and to form a united front in dealing with the common problems and in meeting the potential challenges likely to be caused by the drastic changes in the situation.

Emphasizing that the emergence of various fanatic elements and aggressive racial extremists in Malaysia has brought unrest, threat, and danger to the Chinese community, Li Lin-tai warned that we may end up facing tragedy if we cannot rally all of our antiextremist forces behind a common endeavor to build a strong defense line aimed at preventing the situation from deteriorating.

He pointed out: In the face of the aforementioned reality, the entire Chinese community in Malaysia cannot watch a disaster develop with their arms folded behind their back. Unless the people of Chinese origin give up their obsolete ideas of a self-contained economy, the economic base they have built over the centuries may end up being washed away by the torrents of our time. For the sake of our own survival and that of our descendants, our citizens of Chinese origin must continuously strive to further consolidate their economic posture.

REACTION TO THREAT TO CLOSE CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 18 Jul p 12

[Political Column article by Chih Chiu (4249 4428): "Is It a Political Trick?"]

[Text] Suhaimi, head of the Malay Youth League, has been vehemently rebuffed for his recent speech calling for closing the Chinese and Indian primary schools in Malaysia. His speech came in the wake of a debate over whether or not the cabinet's education report was acceptable.

Shortly after two representatives of the Democratic Action Party warned the Chinese society of his harmful speech, Lin Chi-hsiang [2651 0679 4382] decided to invite leaders of various political parties and civic bodies to a "special tea party" to be held at the Malaysian Restaurant on the coming Sunday. Suhaimi's speech has also been included as a subject of discussion on the agenda of the meeting of the MCA district chairmen and secretaries scheduled for this weekend.

As we expected, the ruling political parties have described opposition party leader Lin Chi-hsiang's "special tea party" as a vulgar political trick. The MCA's general secretary has issued a statement openly calling on its members not to be duped by him.

The threat "to close the Chinese and Indian primary schools" is really a serious problem. People from all walks of life have greeted this threat with concern and positive actions. As everyone can see, this problem, which concerns the future of Chinese culture, has even been exploited by someone as a tool to increase his political fortune. It is really unfortunate and sad to see this happen.

We have consistently been told not to worry about the future of the Chinese primary schools. Now I want to ask our representatives in the National Front government the following question: Can we still show no concern for the oft-repeated threat by one of the National Front's leaders to close the Chinese and Indian primary schools? We agree that a demagogic speech could be called a political trick. At the same time, we should not forget to ask the following question: Could we also call the attempt to placate our inquisitive minds a political trick?

MALAY LEADERS' DEMAGOGIC SPEECHES DECRIED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 20 Jul 80 p 12

[Political Column article by Chih Chiu [4249 4428]: "Good Advice Offends the Ears"]

[Text] An assessment of speeches and resolutions adopted at the recent congresses of Malay youth league and its women organization and the annual UMNO meeting shows that the Malay society has gradually abandoned its agricultural economy and is now moving closer and closer to controlling the economic power of this country. But the picture of the Chinese society remains gloomy and its future uncertain.

Nevertheless, it seems unfair to say that the present leaders of the Chinese community have been unresponsive and mum in the face of the problems. A survey and analysis of their latest quick reactions to the Malay leaders' demagogic speeches indicate that they have not been lulled to sleep and have been alert to what has happened to this country.

But in the final analysis, what effect will their protests against the Malay leaders' demagogic speeches have on Chinese society? Will there be any changes in the status of Chinese society as a result of such protests?

My response to these questions is that we can get nowhere as long as the political power is in the hands of other people and we ourselves cannot negotiate from a position of strength.

I have repeatedly suggested that a united political front be formed by various forces in the Chinese community as the only alternative in order to keep its economic position from deteriorating. Although this suggestion has been tacitly endorsed by various groups and political parties in the Chinese society, difficulties in bringing it into reality remain to be overcome--difficulties which reportedly have been created by leaders of the Chinese-oriented political parties. This really bodes ill for the people of Chinese origin.

As I have said before, a qualified leader of any political party should be farsighted, broadminded, tolerable to others' opinions, and humbly receptive to criticism. It is unfortunate to note that our society now lacks this kind of leaders.

As everyone knows, good advice often offends the ears, and good medicine sometimes is too bitter to swallow. Love for good food and love to be eulogized and praised are also human nature. But anyone who still loves such a lifestyle will do Chinese society no good. It is very sad to note that those leaders who have publicly professed to welcome criticism have gone back on their word by cursing and threatening their critics behind the people's back. I just want to have my fingers crossed that the future of the Chinese community will not be ruined by such people.

9574

CS01 4205

RACIAL EXTREMISM, RELIGIOUS FANATICISM DENOUNCED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 26 Jul 80 p 8

[25 July news report from Kuala Lumpur]

[Text] Chou Fu-tai [0719 4395 3141], general secretary of the Malaysian Chinese Youth League [MCYL], said: Any form of racial extremism or religious fanaticism will prevent the government from reaching the goal of building a humane society of fair deal and justice for all and will ruin the people's ultimate hopes of transforming their country into a society of political stability, economic prosperity, freedom, and happiness, and a society in which everyone will feel secure.

He maintained that no ethnic group should pin its hopes for success and progress on aid alone offered by other ethnic groups and the government. All ethnic groups must spontaneously and enthusiastically work together, go all out, and aim high to improve their economic well-being, so that they can better meet the challenges and demands of our time.

He said that if the government expects the private enterprises and industry and commerce to give Malays more equitable treatment, it must also ask its official and semiofficial agencies to give non-Malays similar treatment and opportunities.

Chou Fu-tai made the above statement in a speech before a political forum sponsored by the MCYL Kelantan branch on 23 July. Excerpts follow:

Our Paramount Ruler pointed out recently that all loyal and patriotic citizens are entitled to the protection of the constitution. His Majesty's statement can be explained in the following two ways:

First, all loyal and patriotic citizens need not be concerned or worried about their rights being unreasonably or arbitrarily deprived, infringed upon, or suppressed, because all obligations they should perform, all rights and status they enjoy, and the role they play are unequivocally spelled out in the constitution, regardless of their national origin.

Second, all loyal and patriotic citizens are unlikely to deliver any speeches or take any actions in violation of the spirit or letter of the constitution. All forms of racialism, chauvinism, and religious fanaticism will breed radical and extremist ideas against the interests of the country and people--ideas that run counter to our present government's policy to build our multinational country on the principles of "coexistence and coprosperity" and "combining diversity with uniformity." Any form of racial extremism and religious fanaticism would prevent the government from seeking to build a society of fair deal and justice for all and would obstruct the people from endeavoring to build a country in which they can feel secure and enjoy political stability, economic prosperity, social tranquility, freedom, and happiness.

Such a perfect and ideal society cannot be built by the government or by any single ethnic group alone. All ethnic groups must "share weal and woe" and coordinate in building their relations on the principle of mutual understanding, mutual concessions, and mutual respect. Obviously, no single ethnic group should seek to build its happiness and wealth at the expense of other ethnic groups. Nor should it pin its hopes for success and progress on aid from the government and other ethnic groups alone. All ethnic groups must spontaneously and vigorously go all out and aim high to improve their economic well-being so that they can better meet the challenges and demands of our time.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Mahathir has charged that private enterprises and industrial and commercial sectors are discriminating against and suppressing Malays; he forgets that non-Malays have frequently been discriminated against by the official and semiofficial agencies. As everyone can clearly see, the causes of such discrimination are easily traceable. To solve this problem once and for all, government agencies should make positive efforts to eliminate all causes of discrimination so that industrial and commercial sectors will follow suit. In other words, if the government expects the private enterprises to give Malays more equitable treatment, it must first ask its official and semiofficial agencies to give non-Malays similar treatment and opportunities.

The MCYL believes that the private enterprises and industrial and commercial sectors have done everything possible to help Malays build their own private enterprises, and have never delivered speeches critical of the constitution or acted against the interests of the country. The MCYL also understands that non-Malays have lodged protests with the government against some Malay youth leaders' and extremists' demagogic and sensitive speeches fanning up narrowminded "Malay nationalism" and "Islamic fanaticism." Such protests, which express the sentiment and aspirations of non-Malays, are completely legal.

But the MCYL and the 5 million people of Chinese origin have regarded those demagogic speeches as a gross violation of the spirit of the constitution and of the interests of a multinational society. For this reason, the MCYL and the entire Chinese community have no alternative but to correct and rebuff them.

We sincerely hope that all wise and responsible UMNO leaders, especially Prime Minister Hussein Onn and Deputy Prime Minister Dr Mahathir, can restrain their subordinates and party officials from issuing any more irresponsible and demagogic statements, so that similar caustic and emotional rejoinders can be avoided.

NEPAL

BRIEFS

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES APPOINTED--Kathmandu, Aug 21--
Joint-Secretary Bisweswor Prasad Rimal has been appointed residential
Charge d'Affairs of Nepal to the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was announ-
ced here today, reports RSS. He is leaving here tomorrow for the country.
Mr. Rimal had earlier worked as the first Secretary of Royal Nepalese
Embassies in Peking and Washington. [Text] [Kathamandu THE RISING NEPAL
in English 22 Aug 80 p 1]

CSO: 4220

BALUCHI TRIBESMEN'S REHABILITATION SCHEME BEGINS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] QUETTA, Aug. 27: The scheme for rehabilitation of 5,000 Baluch families began today with the distribution of financial assistance to the heirs of those Marri tribesmen who lost their lives during 1973 to 1977.

The Governor of Baluchistan, Lt.-Gen. Rahimuddin Khan, this morning distributed Rs. 29.52 lakh among the 226 families in the Marri tribal area of Kohlu Agency, about 200 miles from the provincial capital. According to official sources, the Federal Government has allocated Rs. 2.50 crore for the rehabilitation of these affected tribesmen in various parts of Baluchistan.

The scheme is result of a series of talks between President Ziaul Haq, and three prominent Baluch leaders, Nawab Khair Bakhsh Marri, Sardar Attaullah Khan Mengal and Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Marri following a general amnesty in Baluchistan announced by the President.

The Baluch leaders afterwards reportedly backed out

from the agreement on the question of financial assistance. They were of the view that the Government should distribute money through them and not through any official agency.

President Zia during a visit to Baluchistan on Aug. 4, 1978, called upon the affected tribesmen to file their claims with the Provincial Government for their rehabilitation. Most of the Marri tribesmen, who had either gone underground or left the country, came back to Baluchistan and filed their claims. The Government received about 5,000 claims.

A Marri leader, when contacted by this correspondent, commented this bold step of the Federal Government would help bring peace and tranquillity to the province. The tribesmen have also appreciated the government efforts for easing tension, prevalent in the province from 1973 to 1977.

The amount was distributed at a ratio of Rs. 25,000 as compensation to the kins of the killed and Rs. 5,000 and

Rs. 2,000 respectively, for each person who had been injured badly and slightly. The break-up of claims paid is as under:

Death claim 105; badly injured 35; and slightly injured 76.

Addressing the Jirga of Marri tribesmen, the Governor called upon those Baluch tribesmen, who had left their homes due to disturbances in Baluchistan during 1973 to 1977, to return to their homes and held out the assurance the Government would rehabilitate them.

The Governor said the people, who had not returned yet, would be rehabilitated as and when they wished to do so and added the government would extend its full co-operation and assistance in this regard.

He expressed the hope that these people would realise the sincerity of the government sooner or later.

He said the general amnesty announced by the President will remain valid until all tribesmen came back.

DIRECTIVE ON INCREASING AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Aug 80 pp 1, 8

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Aug. 26: President Ziaul Haq today called upon the Food and Agriculture Ministry and the four Provincial Governments to arrange complete and effective utilisation of all resources for increasing wheat production in the country.

Presiding over the three-day national seminar on "Wheat Research and Production", organised by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council here, the President said though Pakistan's wheat production had touched a record figure of 11.8 million tons, much ahead of the target fixed, and now the country was technically self-sufficient in food requirements, "We still need an import of four lakh tons of wheat to be used as a reserve stock."

Stressing the need for making full use of the latest scientific knowledge and technology, the President sounded a note of warning to the scientists, agriculturists and farmers to keep up the pace of increasing production of the two rich crops, rice and cotton, which were the main source of Pakistan's foreign exchange earning.

He said the production plan chalked out for boosting wheat production last year became a success with the blessing of Almighty Allah and the concerted efforts of all relevant organisations as well as the dedicated work of the farmers themselves.

The President in his inaugural speech gave a six-point directive to the participants and the concerned authorities for boosting

food production in the country.

The six-point directive as spelled out by the President is: (1) Wastage of water should be reduced;

(2) extension services be improved to enable the farmers to get greater benefit of modern farming practices; (3) system of agricultural credit to the cultivators be bettered; (4) commercial banks should fully supplement the efforts of the Co-operative Societies and ADBP in this connection; (5) better varieties of seeds and fertilisers be arranged in time for the farmers; and (6) full efforts be made to combat the twin menace of waterlogging and salinity.

He said in certain areas the malady of waterlogging and salinity was rapidly eating up the fertile tracks of land. This situation, the President pointed out, could well be met by saving the fertile lands from this menace as well as increasing the productivity of available lands. The President was of the view that Pakistan could easily be turned into a wheat-exporting country if it made full use of the latest scientific knowledge and technology.

He said the production and requirement estimated for the next year were 113 lakh tons and 100 lakh tons, respectively. If the weather conditions remained favourable, Pakistan would be able to have an easy time next year.

While pleading for boosting production of rice and cotton, the President warned that any reduction in the production of rice would result in heavy loss to the national exchequer.

As regards cotton, the President expressed the hope that the

country expected to have a good harvest of cotton crop this year. He also emphasised the need for increasing the production of tobacco as it was also a good source of earning foreign exchange.

The President expressed concern on the alarming rate of import of edible oil for the manufacture of Vanaspati Ghee and urged the agricultural scientists to do something to curtail it.

The President said edible oil was imported to the tune of Rs.247 crore every year. The figure was on the increase and if some day the countries from where this oil was imported put some impediments on its import, the people of Pakistan may have to go without Vanaspati Ghee. He, therefore, called for finding out some device to either get rid of Vanaspati Ghee for good or to reduce the quantum of its import.

PRESENT IMBALANCE IN TRADE LIKELY TO CONTINUE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Aug 80 p 8

[Text] KARACHI, Aug. 28. Ishaq-ul-Haq, the Federal Commerce Secretary, said here today that Pakistan's total import bill this year had been estimated at 5 billion dollars against the estimated total export figures of 2.6 billion dollars. Addressing leading businessmen and industrialists at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, he said, unless production of wheat, fertilizers, edible oils etc increased substantially, the present imbalance in trade would continue, as these very items accounted for bulk of the import.

Mr. Ishaq said during the last three years, there had been marked increase in the export trade but he said during the outgoing year, 72 per cent of the export earnings were from rice, raw cotton and petroleum products — all in the public sector. The manufactured and semi-manufactured products, the secretary said mainly handled by the private sector, constituted only 28 per cent of the export earnings.

Giving an optimistic picture, Mr. Ishaq said Pakistan was likely to become self-sufficient in fertilizers within two years. With another good harvest of wheat crop, he said the import of this commodity would further drop. Last year, he said ten lakh tons of wheat was imported to build a reserve. Four

lakh tons of wheat, Mr. Ishaq said was expected to be imported this year.

The Secretary said the production of petroleum would also go up to meet 30 per cent of the requirement within two years. Fertilizers, he said were also underway to increase the production of edible oil seeds. Mr. Ishaq said with the completion of under construction steel mills, substantial foreign exchange, being spent on import of steel products, would be saved.

The Secretary made an earnest appeal to the private sector to increase the export of manufactured and semi-manufactured products. He assured that government would extend all facilities to the industrialists.

Replying to points raised by the Federation President Maher Ali, the Secretary said government had to impose restrictions last year in the issuance of licences as the foreign exchange reserves had dropped to a very low figure at one stage.

As regards the industrialists demand for timely exchange of fresh protocols under barter, the Secretary said that trade with only a few countries was being conducted under the barter system. He said that fresh protocols could not be exchanged unless imports and exports were fully completed under the agreement. — APP

STEEL MILL OPENING DELAY DEPLORED, EXPLAINED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26, 28 Aug 80 pp 1, 4

[Text] ISLAMABAD Aug. 26. Pakistan Steel Mills, the gigantic Soviet-aided project, which has so far suffered heavily because of lack of coordination, planning and understanding, is showing no sign of recovery and is again facing threat of delay. Its revised estimated cost of Rs. 2,143 million is likely to go up further.

The project, originally to be completed by January, 1978, is now scheduled to be completed by 1984-85.

The blast furnace was originally to go into action in September,

1979. The date was extended to December 1979, and again to March 80, then again revised to June 1980, and now it has been fixed for December 80. But doubts about the completion of the work remain.

Similarly, the first phase of the township, which was originally to be completed by September, 1974, was deferred to April, 1975, and again to June, 1982. The revised target is now June, 1983.

The completion of infrastructure facilities, originally fixed for December, 1973, were postponed till June, 1974, and again deferred till November, 1979 and further put off till June, 1980 and have not yet been fully completed.

The main plant had suffered the same fate as hot metal stage of the Mill which was scheduled to be completed in October, 1975. It was revised several times and September, 1980, set as the target. But chances to hit the target are slender as according to a brochure

of the Mill three per cent of the work is still to be completed.

Similarly, billet stage, originally fixed for completion in July, 1976, is expected to start now in September 81, after a number of targets set and revised.

The hot and cold rolling mills, scheduled to start in January, 1978, was expected to begin work in December, 1980. But now a new target has been fixed - June, 1983.

Who is responsible for these delays and consequent losses? Nobody is prepared to answer the question.

Interestingly enough, when the first blast furnace is scheduled to be

fixed three months from now the board have fixed a meeting of a working group tomorrow to review "the projected profitability of the project and suggest measures to improve it."

The meeting may also recommend measures to encourage the development of downstream projects for ensuring full capacity operation and to examine the extent to which public sector participation may be necessary for their development.

This is a job which should have been done much earlier if there was sound planning, it is said. What type of downstream industries could well be developed to consume 1,35,000 tons of pig iron and 2,15,000 tons coke which is estimated to be available annually from the first blast furnace is so far a mere guess and only experts meeting-- tomorrow, would be able to say something about it.

We have read with dismay your news story captioned "Pakistan Steel (Unexplained Delays in Vital Project)", (Aug. 26). I regret to say that it is based on complete ignorance of facts. It should have been fair if the position had been checked with the relevant quarters before a critical news story on a vital project of national importance was flashed in a newspaper of your standing.

The correct position with regard to the implementation of Pakistan Steel Project is stated below for the information of your readers:

The foundation stone of the project was laid on Dec. 30, 1973. At that time a tentative schedule was drawn up which provided for the implementation of the project in the following stages:

- (i) Firing of first blast furnace (Hot Metal Stage) June 1978
- (ii) Steel making plant and billet mill Dec. 1978
- (iii) Hot rolling mill June 1980
- (iv) Cold rolling mills Dec 1980
- (v) Full cycle of production 1983-84

The above implementation schedule was based on the assumption that preparatory work e.g. site preparation and preliminary construction would start in 1974. The commencement of work on these items was, however, delayed and effective construction on the main plant started only in Aug 1976. The above tentative schedule was revised from time to time, on the basis of progress of work actually attained.

When the present regime came to power on July 5, 1977, the implementation of the project was much behind the schedule set for various components and stages and only 12 per cent progress had been achieved on an overall-basis. This project of national importance received urgent attention of the present Government and the CMLA himself visited it in Jan 1978. A schedule of completion was then drawn up, which called for completion of the different stages of the project by the following dates:-

- (i) Firing of first blast furnace (Hot Metal Stage) Last quarter of 1980
- (ii) Steel making plant and billet mill Third quarter of 1981
- (iii) Hot rolling mills: First quarter of 1982

(iv) Cold rolling mills Second quarter of 1983.

(v) Full cycle of production 1984-85

The above schedule was critically scrutinized by and agreed with a high level Soviet delegation which visited Pakistan in Feb 1978. The programme which has since been made in the implementation of the project is indeed gratifying. On an overall basis, the progress upto July 31, 1980 is 67 per cent as against 12 per cent by end June 1977. The progress of billet mill stage is 80 per cent as against 14 per cent in June 1977 and of hot metal stage 97 per cent as against 18 per cent in end June 1977.

Despite numerous problems, not unusual at the finishing stages of any project, it is hoped that the first blast furnace will be ready for firing in Dec 1980. Many other auxiliary, production and infrastructure units like port handling facilities, thermal power plant, water, power and gas supply lines etc. and coke oven battery No.1 will all be commissioned before the firing of the blast furnace.

Needless to say that the construction of a steel plant requires the highest motivation, dedication, diligence and sustained effort over a number of years, on the part of all those engaged in it. The magnitude of work and the time-scale involved in the construction of a steel plant can be judged from the construction history of the latest Indian steel plant set up at Bokaro, where the major construction started in 1967, the first blast furnace was fired in 1972 and the last unit of the plant viz. the cold rolling mills was commissioned in 1977—a total span of 10 years. If Pakistan in its pioneering effort at setting up a steel plant can complete the project within the time schedule mentioned above, it will indeed be a remarkable achievement.

To keep up the required pace of construction activity is undoubtedly a mammoth exercise in co-ordination and those who have seen a steel plant under construction or have visited Pakistan Steel Project can appreciate the problems and

the difficulties which the management of the project encounters and overcomes from day to day. The progress made during the last three years reflects the achievement in co-ordinating the highly complex and diversified activities involved in the implementation of the project and has earned appreciation from independent observers. This has been possible by the unremitting exertion of all those working at the project and through the support of government at all levels.

The setting up of a working group to review the projected profitability of the project, and to identify downstream units, is a part of a continuous process to review the economic aspects of the project from time to time. In fact such expert working groups have been set up for each sub-sector of industry, including basic metals, from time to time. A detailed report of one such group was prepared in 1976 and updated by another group in 1978. The present working group is deliberating in detail about the specifics of downstream units which will be set up in private and public sectors for optimal utilisation of end-products of Pakistan Steel.

The people working at this project in fact need a word of encouragement rather than unsympathetic criticism. It would have been in the fitness of things if your correspondent had verified his facts or paid a visit to the project before putting out a coloured story. ASKARI HUSAIN, General Manager (Public Relations).

KEEL LAYING FOR CHINESE SHIP

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Aug 80 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, Aug. 29: The Keel-laying of the first out of the ten 4,500-ton DWT Bulk-Carrier to be built at the Karachi Shipyard for the People's Republic of China, would be performed early next month, Karachi Shipyard sources said here today.

The protocol about these ships was signed in Beijing a few months back. It was agreed that two ships would be built at a time until the completion of the order in the next three years.

The Karachi Shipyard and

Engineering Works had previously built a 12,500-ton DWT Dry Cargo Ship, 'Hettan', for the Chinese National Machinery Imports and Exports Corporation. The ship was handed over to China in January, 1978.

The excellent quality of work done by the Karachi Shipyard in building 'Hettan' was greatly appreciated in China. As a result, the Chinese authorities decided to place an order for ten 4,500-ton bulk carrier. -APP

CSO: 4220

FOOD STORAGE SHORTAGE CAUSING LOSSES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] LAHORE, Aug. 28: Inadequate food storage facilities in the Punjab are causing heavy losses as large wheat stocks are being dumped in the open.

Official sources told The Muslim here today that the programme envisaged another one lakh tons to the existing capacity of about 7 lakh tons during the Fifth Five-Year Plan but it lagged behind because of "resource restraints".

The province had a bumper wheat crop in 1976-77 and the government procured over 1.8 million tons against a storage capacity of 0.66 million tons. "This resulted in sizeable damage to the wheat purchased by the government", an official frankly admitted.

Accordingly, the government

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planned to have a total storage capacity of 1.8 million tons by 1982-83 during the Plan period. But resource constraints restricted ADP allocations to only one lakh tons of additional annual capacity. This would mean the province will have a storage accommodation of about 1.25 million tons against the required capacity of 1.8 million tons by 1982-83. This has forced the authorities concerned to look for the deficit of 0.6 million tons capacity by the stipulated period.

The Punjab Government faced the shortage of storage capacity again this year, these sources pointed out, adding that the Food Department had already

procured over 1.55 million tons of wheat and last year's carry-over of 0.42 million tons made the total of over 17 million tons against the available storage accommodation of 0.95 million tons. The balance stocks have either partly been stored in private godowns or kept in the open on the raised platforms, the sources pointed out with the observation "this, however, is not an ideal arrangement."

Faced with this acute shortage of storage capacity, the Provincial government is understood to be considering to move the Federal Government to provide adequate funds for meeting the gap of about 0.6 million tons to make up for its requirements by the end of current Plan period.

CSO: 4220

NEW SUPPORT PRICE FOR WHEAT TO BE ANNOUNCED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Aug. 29: The Government, in order to give more incentive and a genuine return to the growers, intends to raise the support price of wheat from Rs. 46.65 to Rs. 50 per maund, it was reliably learnt here today. Knowledgeable sources believed that the new support price would be announced within this week.

A high-level meeting is, it is said, being held here tomorrow, under the Chairmanship of Food Minister Rear Admiral Fazil Janjua to finally decide the new support price. The findings of the meeting would be submitted to the President and are likely to be announced after his approval.

The Minister, it may be recalled, had favoured the idea of fixing a new support price at the National Seminar on Wheat Research and Production, organised by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council in Islamabad last week.

Pakistan had a record yield of 1.8 crore tons of wheat this year. This was possible only because of the timely help provided to the cultivators by various Government agencies. The new targets, now being worked out for the coming sowing season, require more incentives to the cultivators. In view of the rising cost of agricultural machinery and other agricultural inputs, revision of the present price had become imperative.

The proposed increase in the wheat price, it is further learnt, would not be allowed to hit the present release price of wheat at ration depots and the Government would bear the enhanced cost.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

EMBASSY IN IRAQ--Manila, Sept. 5, (AFP)--President Ferdinand Marcos today said the Philippines will establish an embassy in Iraq's capital city of Baghdad as part of its diplomatic offensive designed to strengthen its ties with the Middle East. Mr. Marcos made the announcement when he received Ambassador Wahbi 'Abd al-Razak Fattah as the first non-resident envoy representative of Iraq to the country, an official government statement said. He said the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad will open "within a matter of weeks." Mr. Marcos, according to the statement, underscored the need for a diplomatic offensive in the Middle East because it is the major crude oil source for the country in addition as a lucrative market for Philippine labor [as received]. The presidential announcement on the embassy opening came after the Iraq Government awarded a major road construction project to the Construction and Development Corp. of the Philippines. Through a growing exchange of goods and services, Mr. Marcos expressed hopes that partnership between the Philippines and Iraq would be further enhanced for the mutual benefit of the two countries. [Text] [OW051359 Hong Kong AFP in English 1349 GMT 5 Sep 80]

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLANS--Manila, 5 Sep (AFP)--The Philippine Government will spend 9,507 million U.S. dollars in the next 5 years for its accelerated energy development which is heavy anchored in harnessing geothermal and hydropower sources to replace imported oil, it was reported today. Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco said the thrust of geothermal rather than oil exploration arose from the inventory of indigenous energy sources which indicated that the geothermal field "holds the most promise for the country." Mr Velasco said that within the 5-year period the government is scheduled to dig a total of 450 geothermal wells which could provide about 3,500 megawatts of electricity. Offshore Nido oilfield complex in midwestern Philippines had produced 11 million barrels of oil and the 4 new oilfields of Cadlao, Matinloc, Pandan and Libro in the same area are expected to go into production by 1981. Mr Velasco said the Philippine Government will also tap energy development loans from the Asian Development Bank as well as the World Bank to support its continuous search for other nonoil energy sources. [Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 5 Sep 80 OW]

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